

# Jordan Times

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 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

## Democrats to deliver statement to GCC

KUWAIT (R) — A group campaigning for more democracy in the Gulf will deliver an open letter to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in advance of an annual GCC summit in Abu Dhabi, the head of the group said Saturday. Ahmad Bishara, president of the Gulf National Forum, said the letter would cover "unity, democracy and civil rights in the Gulf." A member based in the United Arab Emirates would deliver it to the GCC secretariat in Abu Dhabi Sunday, he said. The forum was set up in May after a meeting in Kuwait of academics, businessmen and professionals from GCC countries — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The group said it would work through peaceful means to promote and defend human rights, democracy and basic freedoms in the six states. Mr. Bishara said the members are around 100 prominent individuals from Gulf countries. Since the Gulf war several states in the region have taken steps towards greater popular political participation, most notably Kuwait, which held parliamentary elections in October.

## Agent congratulates Khri Kwar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Regent, Saturday sent a cable congratulating him on being elected secretary general of the Arab Writers Federation (AWF). The prince also congratulated Kwar the AWF's choice of man as its headquarters.

## Minister asks aiders to cooperate

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's industrial minister has appealed to traders to cooperate with a ban on goods introduced last week by concentrating on domestic production and deterring imports. In a message to private traders carried by newspapers on Sunday, Amer Hammoudi Al said the ban on 146 imported items introduced on Dec. 10 should be a stimulus to domestic production. He appealed to traders to start making items they import and sell them at low prices to prevent anyone from profiting at the consumer's expense.

## Somali refugees live in Yemen

EN, Yemen (R) — More than 750 Somali refugees arrived in Aden and were transferred to a camp near Aden, officials said. Chief immigration officer Colonel Mukh-Kawani said the Somalis, mostly women and children, arrived Thursday. They spent two days in Aden port and underwent medical tests but no serious problems were found, Col. Kawani said. Officials told Reuters the refugees were transferred to a camp, which already housed 15,000 Somali refugees. There was no indication of the new group of refugees in Somalia. At least 10 Somalis arrived in Aden in a barrow along with a barrower. Long sea voyage with little food and water. More than 10 Somali refugees fleeing starvation in Somalia live in camps in Yemen under the care of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

## istan voices concern over UAE deportations

MABAD (R) — Pakistan ignored the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday to express serious concern over reports the UAE is planning to deport large numbers of Pakistani workers. "Innocent Pakistanis should not be penalized for the actions of a few," the Pakistani ambassador said. "The UAE is not a democracy," he said. The UAE has deported more than 700 Pakistanis this week, accusing them of illegal demonstrations and strikes to protest against the union of an ancient mosque and the revival of the northwestern town of Ayodhya. The ambassador said UAE authorities of deep in mind the traditional friendship between the two countries and ensure that innocent Pakistanis were not harassed or persecuted.

## killed in Turkish clashes

ANKARA (AP) — Thirteen people were killed in clashes between security forces and separatists in southeastern Turkey, semi-official Anatolia news agency said on Saturday. In one clash, rebels stopped two police cars, ordered the occupants out, and executed eight of them. The separatist group, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), is fighting the Turkish government. The PKK has armed a 30,000-strong militia of village fighters to help combat the Turkish army. The guerrillas of the PKK are attacking the guards, whom they see as traitors. Three Kurds and two soldiers were killed in separate clashes in Bingol and Siirt provinces on Saturday. Two soldiers were reportedly wounded.

# Israelis kill 6 Palestinians

## Rabin rejects Security Council resolution, vows not to allow Palestinians to return; PLO says U.N. has to implement decision

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead at least six Palestinians including a seven-year-old girl and wounded over 30 in the occupied Gaza Strip Saturday, Arab reports and U.N. relief workers said. The violence erupted immediately after troops temporarily lifted an 10-day curfew in Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis, they said. A military spokesman confirmed six Palestinians were killed but said he would not confirm they were killed by soldiers. Witnesses said shortly after the curfew was lifted residents began throwing stones and clashing with soldiers and the army responded with unusual force. The clashes were the first major confrontation since Israel ousted 415 Palestinians Thursday expelling 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon. Leaders of the five-year-old Palestinian uprising called Friday for 10 days of "fire and rage" after the Jewish state went ahead with the biggest peace time expulsion of Arabs despite international condemnation. Israel beefed up security and

increased troops presence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after the expulsions. Witnesses said hundreds of Palestinian men and women took to the streets, burning tires, stoning soldiers and shouting support for the fundamentalist Hamas Movement. Palestinians said that two army helicopters hovered over the crowd and that one dropped tear gas to disperse the protesters. The dead in Khan Yunis included a seven-year-old girl, Amal Abu Tsur, hospital officials said. Tire burning and stone throwing also were reported in Gaza City and the nearby Shati refugee camp. In one Gaza City neighborhood, more than 400 Palestinians marched with Palestinian flags and shouted for Israel to allow the return of the expelled Palestinians, many of them from the Gaza Strip. The death toll was the highest since Oct. 8, 1990, when 18 Palestinians died when police opened fire to quell protests on the Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem. The clashes came a day after the U.N. Security Council voted

unanimously to condemn the expulsion of Palestinians. The Security Council demanded that Israel "ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported." Secretary-General Boutros Ghali also was asked to consider sending an envoy to the area. Israel ordered the mass expulsion after Islamic fundamentalists killed six Israeli troops in a 10-day period. The government says that the expelled men were suspected of membership in the Hamas movement and Islamic Jihad, which have been blamed for the attacks. Lebanon, however, has refused to accept them, and they have spent two nights in freezing weather on a snow covered hillside between Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon and Lebanese-controlled territory. Earlier Saturday, two Israeli lawyers filed a petition with the supreme court to try to force Israel to take the Palestinians back. The court was to hear the appeal on Sunday, Israel Radio



Women stage a demonstration in front of the U.N. office in Amman against Israel's expulsion Thursday of over 415 Palestinians (see story on page 3)

## Expelled Palestinians settle in makeshift camp for long wait

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinians expelled by Israel and stuck in Lebanon were settling Saturday in a makeshift camp on a snow-covered hillside in South Lebanon with no sign of an early end to their political and physical plight. The International Red Cross and the United Nations sent tents and mattresses to the 415 Palestinians, squatting in freezing temperatures in an area between the Israeli and Lebanese armies. Sixty-three tents had sprung up on the hill since the relief convoys began reaching them Friday evening. 24 hours after Israel brought them into the strip its occupied in South Lebanon. "We still need plenty of extra stoves, medicines and heaters," said Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, 46, one of the Palestinians. "But we are grateful for the assistance we got yesterday and today. It will help us survive in this place, where we will stay for as long as it takes to pressure Israel into allowing us back," Dr. Rantisi, a Gaza physician, told

reporters. But it appeared that the Palestinians were in for a long wait, especially after Israel rejected a U.N. Security Council resolution Friday that strongly condemned the expulsion and ordered the Jewish state to allow the expelled Palestinians to go back to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Some of the Palestinians said they wanted sign up with pro-Iranian Hizbollah forces, believing they would be given rifles instead of stones to use against the Israelis. Israel dumped the Palestinians in South Lebanon early Friday in retaliation for the killing of five Israeli soldiers by the fundamentalist Hamas movement. Lebanon has barred them from government-controlled territory three kilometers to the north. Israeli troops fired over their heads to drive them away from its South Lebanon "security zone." The Palestinians tried to consolidate their tented camp on a wind-swept hillside and hunted for firewood. Many fell sick with

diarrhoea. "Our goal is clear: We will stay here until we return to our families and our homeland. We will be steadfast forever," said Aziz Duke, who said he was a lecturer at Al Najah University in Nablus. "Leaving our homeland is a real death. We accept to be shot and even die but we don't accept to live away from our homes." The Palestinians caught in the largest single expulsion of Arabs by Israel in peace time issued a statement on Saturday urging Lebanon to keep them out of its territory and calling on Arab delegations to pull out of Middle East peace talks. Some of them said that unless they were returned home soon they would fight alongside Hizbollah in its guerrilla war with Israel. "We are trapped between two jaws," said Sami Al Najjar, 24. "Lebanon's stand is in favour of our cause because not allowing us in increases the pressure on powerful states." (Continued on page 5)

## Hamas awaits invitation to Tunis

By Mariam M. Shabib  
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite its long-running conflict with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Hamas movement is anxiously awaiting an official invitation from the PLO leadership in Tunis for an emergency meeting of the various Palestinian groups. "We are waiting for an invitation to go to Tunis," Hamas representative in Amman Ibrahim Ghosheh said Saturday. "We want to go," he told the Jordan Times. "We want to go so we can have a historic meeting of the Palestinian leadership in its entirety and come up with a strategy to end the occupation of Palestine." Hamas leaders in Amman said that the tension between Hamas and the PLO leadership should

## U.S. sees progress in peace talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has taken a decidedly more upbeat view of Middle East peace talks than Arab participants, saying negotiations had made progress and that despite rising regional tensions all sides remain committed to the process. But Palestinians once again raised the spectre they might

boycott future talks if Israel does not rescind its expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories to Lebanon. They warned that only active involvement by the incoming Clinton administration could save the 14-month-old process. "I in no way am diminishing the fact that there are very important substantive gaps that have to

be narrowed in each one of these negotiations," Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerjian said, summing up talks involving Israel and separate teams representing Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians that ended on Thursday. "But what we see and what we

## Jordan presses for world action

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday urged the world community to take steps and end injustices imposed by Israel on the Palestinian people. Jordan's U.N. ambassador called for direct U.N. intervention to halt Israel's arbitrary practices against the Palestinian people. "Israel's ugly crime constitutes a flagrant defiance of international laws and conventions particularly the 1948 Geneva conventions, a Lower House statement said. "Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians is an inhuman and immoral act, and is one in a long chain of arbitrary actions committed by Israel against the Palesti-

nian people," the statement added. "The expulsion serves as a first step of an Israeli strategy to conduct mass expulsions and to evict the Palestinians from their land." The statement said that the expulsion would tension in the region and undermine the peace efforts. The statement urged world parliament and international organisations to intervene and put an end to Israel's atrocities and called on Arab countries to unite their ranks and abort Israel's aggressive plans. Jordan's U.N. ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh told the Security Council that "the uprooting of

Palestinians from their homeland would damage the Middle East peace process. In an address at a special Security Council session called to debate the Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians, Mr. Abu Odeh called for a firm resolution to force Israel to return the expelled people to their homeland. He noted that over the past quarter century the Security Council issued numerous resolutions, the last of which was number 726 of 1992, but that Israel remains adamant and refuses to implement them. Mr. Abu Odeh told the council (Continued on page 5)

## U.N. boosts pressure on Serbs in Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States has signalled a harsher stance on the war in Bosnia by supporting a non-binding General Assembly resolution that advocates force and lifting an arms embargo by Jan. 15. But Washington made no statement on any specific plans on the use of force or whether it would pressure the Security Council to allow Bosnian Muslims to buy in their battle weapons against the better-equipped Bosnian Serb forces. The non-binding resolution was approved 102-0, with 57 abstentions. Abstaining were all 12 members of the European Community and Canada, among others, in their first major split with the United States on action in Bosnia-Herzegovina, formerly part of Yugoslavia. Britain, France and Canada have the largest contingent of troops in Bosnia. The Security Council is expected next week to approve some kind of enforcement of a "no-fly zone" against Serb military aircraft over Bosnia. But Washington wants a freer hand in bombing Serb airfields.

## Relief agencies firm up against Somali extortion

MOGADISHU, Somalia (Agencies) — Gangs tried to resume extorting money from aid workers, but the workers, backed by the U.S. envoy, kicked them out of Mogadishu's port and said Saturday they expect no more confrontations. The capital has been relatively peaceful since U.S. troops landed Dec. 9. Overnight, rival warlords Ali Mahdi, Mohammad and General Mohammad Farah Aidede repeated a pledge to remove their forces from Mogadishu. The troops are being pressed to move beyond Mogadishu and the two other towns they have secured — Baidoa, 200 kilometres west, and a small town with an old military airstrip in between, Beldog. Patrice Franceschi of French humanitarian action said that in spite of U.S. troops at Mogadishu's port, gangs who had been active there returned Friday, harassing the crews of two French ships, another belonging to the Red Cross and a fourth to the U.N. World Food Programme. Mr. Franceschi said the Somali claimed vaccination papers were not in order, or that galleys were not clean enough, then demanded \$20,000 or \$30,000. "Yesterday we threw them out and they provoked a strike" of longshoremen, Mr. Franceschi

said. He went to U.S. special envoy Robert Oakley, who promised to take action. "This morning they started working again," Mr. Franceschi said. Mr. Franceschi said Friday's dispute was perhaps a last attempt by the gangs to continue their old ways, and that they were discouraged by the aid workers' firmness. It was not clear whether Mr. Oakley took any action. Mr. Ali Mahdi's radio station in the northern part of the capital announced his and his rival's militias would start leaving Mogadishu Saturday for camps outside the city. A U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said most of their forces had left town. Gen. Aidede and Mr. Ali Mahdi had agreed to a ceasefire in the capital a week ago, after Mr. Oakley got them to sit down together for the first time in more than a year. They said then that their forces would be out of the capital within 48 hours. But it was noted that the warlords have no authority over many of the unruly factions, and only loose control in the capital. Though their initial thrust into Somalia met no resistance, Marines were braced for a fight as they prepared to go beyond Baidoa and Mogadishu.

## Mubarak arranges Saudi-Qatari summit

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The Emir of Qatar and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd held reconciliation talks in the Holy City of Medina on Saturday arranged by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. After three days of intensive talks in the two countries that looked on the verge of collapse late Friday, the Egyptian president persuaded the ruler of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, to join him and the Saudi King in what Egyptian diplomats described as a breakthrough. The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the Saudi monarch and Mr. Mubarak, along with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, were at the airport to receive

Sheikh Khalifa. The leaders then moved to the royal palace. No details emerged on the talks. But the arrival of Sheikh Khalifa indicated that Mr. Mubarak's spirited mediation bid appeared to have succeeded. In Doha earlier in the day, the official Qatar News Agency said the Emir left to visit his "brother" King Fahd and that he was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, including Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Jasim Al Thani. Also with the Emir were his interior minister, Sheikh Abdul-Ben Khalifa Al Thani, the

## U.N. suspends aid to N. Iraq after bombings

BAGHDAD (R) — The United Nations suspended aid operations to Kurds in northern Iraq Saturday, saying it wanted Baghdad to ensure that no more bombs were planted on relief trucks which pass through government held territory. On three occasions within 18 days the relief trucks have been bombed or explosives have been found on them, U.N. officials Colin Mitchell told reporters. In the most recent case on

Wednesday, 10 trucks exploded while returning from deliveries to areas under Kurdish rebel control and devices were found on another nine, he said. The United States and Turkey have both said they believe the Iraqi authorities, who oppose the autonomous state the Iraqi Kurds have set up in the north, are behind the explosions. Food supplies come from Turkey but have to pass through the government-held city of Mosul

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## U.S. lawyers campaign against university plan for W. Bank campus

By Laney Salisbury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a letter expressing disbelief, the influential United States-based National Lawyers Guild has condemned plans by an American university to open a branch of its campus in the occupied territories. The guild described the move as "tantamount to a blanket acceptance of the occupation (of the West Bank) and all its abuses."

The lawyers guild, centred in New York and comprised of attorneys across America, urged the president of the University of New Hampshire to shelve intentions to build the campus. The campus is to be located in Al Kana, an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank 18 kilometres from Tel Aviv.

"The National Lawyers Guild strongly urges the University of New Hampshire to reverse its injudicious decision...to aid and abet illegal Israeli settlements, and to withdraw its branch from Al Kana," said the letter signed by guild president John Brittain. The letter was faxed to the American branch of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and made available to the Jordan Times.

Mr. Brittain said Israel had been ruling the occupied territories under an "iron-fist" policy since 1985 and such repressive measures as torture and mass arrests have interfered with the education, economic and social rights of Palestinians.

Calling Israeli settlements in the occupied territories "an unambiguous violation" of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Mr. Brittain said it was "inconceivable that a United States institution of higher learning would

counenance the aforementioned human rights violations."

"The presence of the University of New Haven in Al Kana is tantamount to a blanket acceptance of the occupation and all its abuses against the indigenous Palestinian population," the letter added.

Last month, the university in Connecticut announced its controversial intention to build a branch of its campus to be named "HaSharon Campus of the University of New Haven." The president was quoted at the time as saying the land was "owned by no-one" and would be open to Palestinians.

"If an American university is going to put a branch of its campus in a settlement that is illegal and is to consider it as being in Israel, we won't accept it. It is legitimising Israel's military occupation of the West Bank," ADC Amman office manager Haya Awad told the Jordan Times on Saturday.

"If they say the branch is in Palestine then it can go through," she added.

Since the plan to build the campus was announced in late November, the ADC Amman office has been urging Jordanians to write to the university and the U.S. secretary of state, Lawrence Eagleburger, to try the response has been weak and to force the door closed on the plans.

So far, petition has only attracted 100 signatures, far below ADC expectations.

"I don't think people are taking it as seriously as they should be. How can we (ADC) convince people, and make them understand how dangerous an American campus in the occupied territories can be and what kind of precedent it can pose," Ms. Awad said.



A French soldier gives a drink of water to a Somali boy from a fenced enclosure where he is keeping watch as part of the U.S.-led operation to protect relief supplies to the starving millions in Somalia (AFP photo)

## Hoar sees fewer forces in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — The general in charge of Operation Restore Hope says fewer U.S. combat forces may be needed than originally planned and the first U.S. units could be brought home in January.

Gen. Joseph P. Hoar Friday also suggested the peace forces would eventually take a more aggressive role in taking the guns out of the hands of bandits who have terrorised this famine-ravaged country.

But he said it would be as impossible to disarm all Somalis as it would be to take all the guns off city streets in the United States.

Mr. Hoar, chief of the U.S. Central Command, said since other nations had offered more troops than anticipated, fewer than the 28,000 U.S. troops originally planned would be needed.

More than 10,000 troops from other countries have been committed and perhaps as many as 20,000 could be eventually, he said. He gave no estimate of what

the peak U.S. troop presence would be.

"The significant influx of other countries will contribute to an earlier departure of some forces than we had anticipated," said Gen. Hoar. "I am confident that we will see some forces going home in January."

Colonel Fred Peck, a Marine spokesman, said 14,071 Americans were involved in the operation to bring food to starving people, including 7,232 sailors aboard ships off the coast. A total of 1,233 troops from 10 other countries are also present.

Gen. Hoar spoke to reporters in front of the U.S. embassy that was ravaged by looters during the country's civil war two years ago. The embassy is now the headquarters of the aid mission.

He said U.S. strategy was "arms control," a policy of negotiation, force and "inducements" such as trading guns for money or even gifts such as water wells or roads.

Somalis, including influential clan elders, and some foreign

relief workers have urged the Americans to move more quickly to disarm gunmen who have looted food shipments, hijacked cars and robbed people.

Gen. Hoar's statements appeared to be an attempt to meet those expectations without promising to disarm every Somali.

"What we need to do is move the political process forward and while we are doing that get the weapons situation under control which is different than disarmament," he said.

Gen. Hoar added that troops were authorised to intervene to save Somalis whose lives appeared to be in jeopardy.

Earlier in the week, U.S. and French forces failed to intercede when a Somali woman was brutally beaten and stripped naked by a crowd of several hundred angry men who thought she had been selling sexual favours to French soldiers.

U.S. officials initially said the peacekeepers' mission was not to be a police force but to help deliver food to the starving.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraqi parliament denounces Somalia operation

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's National Assembly has appealed to other parliaments to denounce the U.S. intervention in Somalia and press for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country. In a statement published by the Baath party daily Al Thawra Friday, the parliament said it was well known that the intervention force in Somalia was almost entirely American. The operation was "an American occupation and hegemony in this part of the world which allows the U.S. eventually to impose its controls on the Horn of Africa where the Red Sea enters and extends towards the Indian Ocean," it added. The statement also asked why the United States had not come to the aid of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It called on "friendly and Arab parliaments" to seek a withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Somalia. Last week, the Foreign Ministry criticised the U.S.-led operation as a political ploy disguised as a humanitarian move to gain control of a strategic area.

### American files \$10m lawsuit against Iraq

HOUSTON (R) — An American bomb disposal expert who was held in Iraq for four days in October while clearing mines left over from the Gulf war in Kuwait has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against Iraq in a U.S. court. Lawyers for Chad Hall, 30, filed the suit against Iraq on Friday in the U.S. District Court in Washington seeking damages from frozen Iraqi assets in the United States. Mr. Hall, who lives in the Houston area, was seized on Oct. 7 by Iraqis while in Kuwait as he cleared mines near the border that were left over from the 1991 Gulf war. Iraqi officials, tacitly admitting they had made a mistake, released Mr. Hall to the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait observer mission after holding him for four days in Baghdad.

### U.S. military hospital heading for Somalia

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. military is sending a mobile field hospital to Somalia to provide emergency medical care for international forces and Somalis, the Defence Department said Friday. The Pentagon said elements of the 86th Evacuation Hospital from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, would begin deploying by air this weekend. The hospital can be set up with operating rooms, a pharmacy, laboratory, X-ray facilities and up to 400 beds.

### Turks condemn killings in Bosnia, burn flags

ISTANBUL (AP) — About 2,000 people demonstrated against the Serb offensive against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and some burned American and Serbian flags. Minor skirmishes with riot police broke out, and a few arrests were reported during the protest, which started after Friday prayers. The mostly fundamentalist Muslim demonstrators carried placards reading "Muslim lands under occupation" and "Hypocrite government, where's the aid to Bosnia?" The crowd unfurled American and Serbian flags and set them afire as they chanted slogans such as "end to secular dictatorship" and "Mohammad's Army cannot be stopped." Earlier in the day, the government and the Turkish Red Crescent shipped 4,400 tonnes of aid, including food, medicine and clothing, to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Foreign Ministry said.

### Indian beheaded for murdering Saudi sponsor

RIYADH (AP) — An Indian man convicted of murdering his Saudi Arabian sponsor was beheaded Friday, the Interior Ministry announced. The announcement identified the man as Benji Patel and said he had killed his sponsor, a woman named Nora Bint Fahd Al Qahatani, by hitting her on the head with two rocks. The announcement, carried by the media, did not give the reason for the murder, and it was not clear when the crime was committed. It said the Indian was beheaded in Kharg, on the outskirts of Riyadh. There are more than four million expatriates working in the kingdom. Asians make up most of the labour force. Foreigners must have a Saudi individual or institution as a sponsor for their presence in the kingdom.

## Washington 'watching' Iraqi move

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iraqi military is equipment about in south amid a troubling new harassment against the relief operation, senior officials said Friday.

The military has been trying to impede relief travelling from Turkey to regions inhabited by the said one senior official spoke on condition of anonymity.

The troubling thing has been continuing in United Nations guard Turkish drivers' said the said, as Pentagon intelligence ports have noted on the activity among Iraq forces in the western and northern Iraq.

The Iraqis have been some of their assets in various military units, tanks and artillery, the official said.

The official denied it been a missing of Iraqi north, or that any have been brought in.

He said their number about 25 per cent of Iraqi military power. The behind the unit moves are the official said.

Iraq could be ready attack against the Kurds, also be bulking up some prepare for a large-scale exercise, said the official has access to intelligence.

"It's hard for us to know what Iraq's getting ready but we are watching it," the official said.

There are enough militia in the region to overrun settlements, should Baghdad decide to do so, a senior official noted.

"That's why we're watching him," the official said. The allied air unit protects the Kurds with more than four dozen combat aircraft involved effort, the official said.

There have been no violations by the Iraq "no-fly" zones in either or southern Iraq, the official said.

Last month, the Iraq ment included stopping a voy at a checkpoint and taking the Turkish away for questioning.

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>	
17:30	Revue d'enfants
17:40	La Paix de Xapaton
18:00	News in French
18:15	Le Journal de L'Histoire
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Family Matters
21:15	National Geographic
22:00	News in English
22:30	Law and Order
<b>PRAYER TIMES</b>	
05:03	Fajr
06:26	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:33	Dhuhr
14:17	'Asr
16:39	Maghrib
18:02	Isha
<b>CHURCHES</b>	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632705	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzmann Church Tel. 622346	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	
Tel. 620543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 653226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene tel. 675691	
<b>WEATHER</b>	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Some clouds will appear at various altitudes, with a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be southeasterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman	03 / 12
Aqaba	10 / 20
Deserts	02 / 14

JORDAN VALLEY	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 43 per cent.	
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>	
<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	
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Dr. Walid Khatwani	620441
Dr. Wafiq Khatwani	615648
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Fordows pharmacy	770336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636738
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
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Alqada pharmacy	1-1
ZARQA:	
Dr. Raif Alatah	984424

<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue Police	630341
Public Security Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	621111, 637777
Blood Bank	891228
Highway Police	775121
Traffic Police	843402
Public Security Department	896290
Police Complaints	670701
Hotel Complaints	665800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	847467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	747111
Telephone Information	
(Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
<b>HOSPITALS</b>	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642841/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malika, J. Amman	636140
Palatine, Shmeisani	664174
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664166
Irbid, Al-Musharraf	777111/3
Al-Bashir, J. Abdali	775112/6
Army, Marka	381611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	622440/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	019183323
Zarqa National Hospital	019180560
Irbid Sina Hospital	019180732
Al Nizwa Modern Hospital	019180990
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	012127555
Greek Catholic Hospital	012127275
Al Nafza Hospital	012124718

<b>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</b>	
09:35	Cairo (GP)
12:30	Bahrain (GP)
14:30	Moscow (SU)
14:55	Larnaca (CY)
19:50	Beirut (ME)
<b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b>	
<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
<b>ARRIVALS</b>	
<b>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</b>	
09:00	Jeddah (RJ)
09:15	Aqaba (RJ)
09:25	Larnaca (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15	Beirut (RJ)
11:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:30	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
11:50	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
12:30	Athens (RJ)
13:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:20	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
13:45	Vienna (RJ)
20:45	Rome (RJ)
<b>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</b>	
09:50	Beirut, Rome (AZ)
10:25	Cairo (MS)

<b>MARKET PRICES</b>	
Upper/lower price in the market	
Apple	600
Banana	700
Banana (Mekong)	650
Beans	1200
Cabbage	1200
Carrot	1200
Cauliflower	1200
Cucumbers (large)	300
Cucumbers (small)	400
Eggplant	600
Garlic	600
Grapes (large)	200
Lebanese	200
Marrow (large)	200
Marrow (small)	200
Onion (dry)	200
Onion (green)	200
Orange	200
Potato	200
Potato (sweet)	200
Spinach	200
Tomato	200
Green Olive	400



# Home News

## Jordan, Lebanon improve trade ties

**WASHINGTON** — The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) Saturday resumed a successful industrial fair in Beirut, the first of its kind since the Gulf crisis.

The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) Saturday resumed a successful industrial fair in Beirut, the first of its kind since the Gulf crisis. Executive Director Halim Al Magdasi, Unconfirmed trade sources in Amman said that a Lebanese team representing importers and businessmen are due to arrive in Amman in 10 days time to follow up on the outcome of the fair and make further deals.

Coinciding with the news of the success of the Jordanian fair, Jordan and Lebanon Saturday opened formal talks grouping government officials on both sides to look into means of increasing the volume of exchanged trade.

A statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that a Lebanese team led by Dr. Magdasi, met with Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and reviewed a Lebanese-Jordanian trade agreement signed by the two countries last October.

Dr. Ensour outlined the Jordanian government's role in promoting trade and described some of Jordanian laws which encourage investment. According to Jack Sarraf, the Lebanese Trade Association President, the October protocol underlined the role of the private sectors in the two countries.

The protocol includes lists of national products which are either exempted from all customs duty and other taxes or by one third of customs tariffs.

Petra said the two countries would review trade relations in every six months in Beirut or Amman.

## Zeid meets Lebanese ex-premier

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Prime Minister Zeid Ben Shaker and Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss reviewed the Saturday pan-Arab establishing solidarity Arab countries.

Dr. Hoss Saturday, was scheduled to deliver a lecture on Lebanon's democratic experiment at Philadelphia Hotel in Amman, the proceeds from the lecture will benefit Palestinians involved in the intifada.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cars to be exempted from testing in 1993

**AMMAN** — From the beginning of 1993 all vehicles with their plates, automobiles, licenses and tractors will be exempted from technical testing at the licensing department in Amman, according to a decision issued by Brigadier Khaled Aref, the department head. Cars manufactured in the years 1985, 1987 and 1989 will be exempted from tests.

### University holds seminar in support of intifada

**(Petra)** — Students in Muta University near Karak held a seminar to express solidarity with the Palestinian intifada. Addressing the ceremony, University President Mohammad Al Bakhit said that the atrocities in Israel represent a defiance of mankind — culturally, politically, socially and morally. Dr. Bakhit called on the Arab nation to support the intifada by all available means. Addressing the ceremony also was Dr. Al Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament who dwelt at length on the intifada noting that it has a positive influence on uniting Arab ranks. Dr. Farhan urged Arabs and Muslims to direct their efforts towards the liberation of the occupied territories and the holy places in Jerusalem. The university's seminar was part of a long activities which also included activities by students such as poetry readings and lectures.

### Aviation delegates return from Morocco

**AMMAN (Petra)** — A delegation from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), headed by CAA Director General Ahmad Al Farhan, returned to Amman from Morocco Saturday after participating in the meetings of the Arab Civil Aviation Agency. The delegation discussed in its three-day meetings the final draft of the agency's charter and a report on its budget. The agency was established to coordinate Arab aviation policy for air transport.

### Land publications draft to be debated in parliament

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Lower House of Parliament is due to resume Sunday to resume debate on the draft law on press publications, according to a statement Saturday. The minister of finance, awqaf and Islamic affairs, social development, health and welfare as well as the director of the audit bureau will answer queries raised by deputies during the session.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

Following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed information and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of ceramics by the Jordanian artist Mahmoud Al Haddad at Alia Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings and silkscreen by three artists from the Fayez Al Hassani, Kamel Al Mughanni and Laila Shawa at the Hamed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.).
- Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordanian Society of Fine Arts.
- Exhibition of paintings by artist Kamal Al Jawhari at Housing Complex Art Gallery.

### BAZAAR

The Al-Hussain Society for Physically Handicapped Bazaar at the Al-Hussain Society, 7th Circle, behind the Royal Automobile Club, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.



**PRINCESS BASMA MEETS NATIONAL POPULATION COMMITTEE.** Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the chairperson of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QJAF), attended Saturday a meeting of the national population committee. Princess Basma expressed her appreciation of the achievements of the committee's general secretariat and commended efforts exerted by its members. Secretary General of the committee Nabih Salamah briefed the meeting, which was also attended by Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, on the committee's achievements during 1992 and its future plans.

## Danish politician discusses Mid East with Sharif Zeid

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and a visiting Danish parliamentary delegation Saturday reviewed regional and international development and agreed that there was need for the international community to force Israel to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 to help attain peace in the region.

The prime minister and the Danish team led by Steen Christensen described Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians as a violation of the peace process and in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The two sides welcomed a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's military practices which, they said, expressed the world community's dismay over Israel's continued intransigence of human rights.

Mr. Christensen, who is the secretary general of the Socialist Democratic Party in Denmark, briefed the prime minister on his talks over the past three days with Jordanian government officials and parliamentarians. Mr. Christensen and his party who are leaving Jordan Sunday had a meeting earlier with Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif in which they discussed the Middle East situation and the expulsion of Palestinians.

Mr. Sharif called for a greater European role in the peace efforts and for pressure to be exerted on Israel to comply with the U.N. resolutions. Mr. Christensen said after the meeting that the talks offered his party a chance to learn more about the situation in the region. He voiced his country's support for the peace process and the rights of the Palestinian people to determine their own future on their national soil.

## Local natural gas may be energy of the future

**By P.V. Vivekanand**  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — A silver lining on the horizon for economically troubled Jordan was the discovery of natural gas in 1987, and all indications today are that it could eventually replace up to 40 per cent of the Kingdom's imports of fuel to produce energy, saving the country up to \$100 million a year.

Two wells in Al Rishah area near the border with Iraq are now producing around 20 million cubic feet of gas every day to run two 60-mega-watt turbines — accounting for about 14 per cent of the Kingdom's total power needs.

To date, the two wells have produced the equivalent of 3.4 million barrels of oil — worth about \$50 million at current international prices and repaying the JD 28 million investment on the power project in 20 months.

Reserves in the two wells have been established at 215 billion cubic feet of sulphur-free gas, enough to keep the two turbines running for over 20 years.

"But that is not the end of the story," said Kamal Jreisat, director-general of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA). "There are more reserves of natural gas in the area. Four more wells at Al Rishah are under assessment and study, with firm results expected in one year."

Mr. Jreisat explained that the geological features of the terrain were "very complicated," making it difficult to apply conventional methods to estimate the reserves. However, he indicated that the four new wells could easily hold more than the two currently under production.

With the eventual installation of more turbines, natural gas could be used to produce the entire electricity needs of Jordan — 30 per cent of the country's oil imports — as well as industrial needs — another 10 per cent of the imports, Mr. Jreisat said.

About 65,000 barrels of oil are consumed in Jordan everyday — worth over \$1.2 million at current prices. Facilities to hold 23 million cubic feet of gas every day have already been built at the Rishah wells, and another similar storage is being built with Canadian assistance.

The initial euphoria sparked by the discovery of oil in the Azraq area in Jordan in 1984 has died down; production at the Hamzah well is around 400 barrels per day. But this does not mean that the Kingdom has commercial quantities of oil. Mr. Jreisat said.

Over the years, several international companies came to Jordan under agreements with the government and spent about \$40 million prospecting for oil in the Kingdom. In addition, aid programmes with Canada's Petro Canada, the Japan National Oil Company and Austria's OMV provided about \$39 million. Together with the NRA's efforts, 79 wells have been dug in Jordan.

The latest to sign a similar exploration and production-sharing agreement with Jordan was South Korea's Hanbo Energy Company. The Hanbo contract covers parts of the Rishah area and Sirhan in the southeast.

One of the main shortcomings in Jordan's oil exploration efforts had been the absence of a commercial entity to pick up from where the NRA has to leave off with its findings and recommendations, according to Mr. Jreisat, who argues that the government should not spend its funds on prospecting.

"We are spending about JD 10 million every year on prospecting for oil," he said. "This should not be the case. Commercial firms should take the lead."

One of the most outstanding achievements of Jordan, said Mr. Jreisat, "is that it is the only country which discovered oil and gas on its own." After years of deliberations, the government has decided to set up a commercial oil company which will follow up the NRA's petroleum activities.

According to an NRA statement, "Jordan still remains relatively unexplored by international standards." "The government fully recognises the high risks involved and this is amply recognised in a flexible model sharing agreement which contains attractive incentives for companies of all sizes," it says.



Natural gas available in Jordan, if properly exploited, could account for 40% of the Kingdom's imported oil needs.

## Women protest Israeli deportation

**By Sana Atiyeh**  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — More than 200 Jordanian and Palestinian women Saturday protested the Israeli deportation of 415 Palestinians, who spent their second day stranded in no-man's land between Israel's self-declared "security zone" and Lebanon. They demanded international pressure to return the deportees to their homes in the occupied territories.

Chanting pro-Palestinian slogans and singing nationalist songs in front of the United Nations building in Shmeisani, the women submitted a letter of protest to the U.N. representative in Jordan, Osman Hashim, who met the women and promised to deliver the memorandum to the U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Placards below the U.N. emblem covered the entrance of the building which read: "We demand international protection for the Palestinian people." "All our solidarity with the heroic Palestinian intifada," and "Let us stand as one against the (Israeli) policy of massive deportation."

Called for by women's organisations in the country, the sit-in lasted two hours. Women, young and old clapped their hands to the beat of spontaneous songs and chanting, as uniformed police and plain-clothed security men lined the street watching.

A grandmother dressed in a Palestinian embroidered dress held her small grandson's hands and moved him about on the fence, asking him to "dance for Palestine." Two other elderly women talked about how "Israel always gets away with their crimes while the world sits by and watches," and a ten-year-old girl, wearing a sweater designed as the Palestinian flag, sat nearby listening.

In their memorandum, the women called on the U.N. to take immediate action to implement Security Council Resolution 799, which was unanimously adopted Friday condemning the deportation and calling on Israel to return the Palestinians to their homes. The women urged the Security Council, and especially the five permanent members, to "immediately implement the resolution in light of the inhuman living conditions of the deportees."

The Jewish state Friday expelled around 415 Palestinians to Lebanon, where the Lebanese government has refused to allow their entry. The deportees are currently being cared for by the international Red Cross, which has set up tents for them in an attempt to protect them from the cold weather. The deportation decision was taken after an Israeli soldier was killed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

The women also demanded that U.N. forces be sent to the occupied territories to protect the Palestinian civilians until Israeli withdrawals from these areas.

According to human rights activist and lawyer, Asma Khader, the Amman U.N. representative's response to the protest was "positive." She said that he had agreed that Israel was violating international laws and that the issue would be debated on "the highest levels."

Issam Abdul Hadi, head of the Palestinian Women's Federation, said that the women had sent a letter of solidarity to the stranded Palestinian deportees with the Red Cross on Friday, and vowed that the women's protests would escalate if no action is taken to return the Palestinian deportees to their homes.

Human rights groups and Arab writers, who took part in a week-long conference in Amman, are planning a similar protest today at the U.N. premises.

## Police hunt the 'hammerman'

**By P.V. Vivekanand**  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — Police are hunting for an assailant nicknamed "Abu Shakoush" (the hammerman) who is believed to have carried out at least five attacks on Amman shops, including one which led to the death of a pharmacist, between mid-September and early November.

Based on description given by some of the victims, mostly elderly males, police suspect the assailant could be an Egyptian national or someone with an Egyptian accent.

Police investigations and statements given by the victims have established more or less a modus operandi of the assailant who, some experts believe, could be mentally deranged since large-scale robbery does not appear to be the motive of the otherwise bizarre attacks.

The first attack was reported on Sept. 13 at a refrigerator spare parts store on Sult street. The victim, a 50-year-old employee of the store, told police that two men entered the shop in the early hours of the day and asked for several spare parts, including a compressor motor. As the employee went inside to fetch the motor, one of the assailants followed him and hit him with a blunt instrument, causing serious injuries.

The assailants escaped with the employee's wallet which contained JD 20, but they did not touch the cash register. According to the victim of the attack, the two had called on the shop one day earlier inquiring about spare parts and said they would come back the next day.

The victim provided a description of the man who attacked him: between 35 to 40 years of age, around 170 centimetres in height, well-built, dark skinned and speaking Arabic with an Egyptian accent. Almost the same descriptions were given by victims of subsequent attacks, in which no money was taken from the cash registers.

The second attack was on a supermarket on Garden Street, on Oct. 8, again in the early morning hours. The 62-year-old owner of the supermarket was hit on the back of his head with a heavy instrument as he was preparing an order placed by the assailant across the counter. The shopowner, who suffered serious injuries to the skull, was robbed of his wallet but again his cash register was left untouched.

A liquor store on Ras Al 'Ain street was the scene of the third attack, which occurred between 9.30 and 11.30 p.m. on Oct. 19. The 63-year-old owner was found inside the shop with serious injuries to the head, similar to those in the first two attacks. The victim was unable to provide any information and is still undergoing treatment in hospital.

On the morning of Oct. 29, a 47-year-old pharmacist was found dead in a pool of blood inside the Al Esaaf Pharmacy on Firas circle, Jabal Hussein. An autopsy report established skull fractures as the cause of death. A hammer found at the scene of the crime was believed to be the murder weapon — the first probable clue that coined the nickname "Abu Shakoush."

On Nov. 4, at 8 a.m., a 60-year-old building merchant on Madaba Street was attacked in circumstances similar to those of the first and second attacks. He was robbed of JD 500 which he was carrying in his wallet. The merchant provided the best description yet of the assailant. However, he estimated the age of the man to be between 25 and 30 years while the victim of the first attack had put it between 35 and 40.

In addition to being "tall, well-built and dark-skinned," the assailant, according to the merchant, was also "clean-shaven, wearing a big moustache," had curly hair and wore jeans and a jacket.

Drawing from the common features of the attacks, police believe that:

- The assailant could be an Egyptian national, or someone with an Egyptian accent, accompanied by an accomplice as reported by the victim of the first attack;
- All attacks occurred on main streets;
- All victims were elderly;
- Nothing was stolen from the cash boxes of the stores attacked, although they contained money in all cases;
- The attacks occurred every one week to 10 days (no attack has been reported since Nov. 4);
- All injuries were similar, in the back of the skull;
- The attack weapons were heavy, suggesting that they could have been hammers;
- All the shops attacked had a separate store room accessible from the main shop;
- Police have introduced special patrols at certain hours of the day and are on the lookout for people fitting the description provided by the victims of the "hammerman."

**AMMAN PLAZA**

## It's All Happening In December

### At The Amman Plaza Hotel

## Celebrate Christmas In Style

### This Year - The Plaza Way

**Christmas Goodies Sales Counter / Santa's Grotto**

open from Thursday 10th Dec.

Pick your favourite Christmas fare and select from a wide variety of cakes, Yule logs, mince pies, ginger bread men, assorted cookies and chocolate delights. Bring the children and visit Santa at the same time every day between 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Order your home-made Christmas turkey and we will deliver it to you ready to serve.

**Christmas Eve Dinner**

Wednesday 24th Dec.

Jazz up your Christmas Eve and join us at the Andalusia Restaurant for gourmet dinner, romantic atmosphere, exclusive service, and jaunty jazz by Jazz Malazz

Price: JD 18++

For reservations and enquiries, please call 674111 and ask for the box office.

**Children's Christmas Party**

Tuesday 22nd Dec.

4:00pm To 6:00pm.

For the first time in Amman children can enjoy their own special Christmas party at the ballroom.

The program features:

- The muppet show,
- presenters for every child,
- fantastic games, super Snacks and lots more!

Ticket price: JD 6++

Accompanying adults complimentary.

**Christmas Day Lunch**

Thursday 25th Dec.

At the Coffee Shop.

A sumptuous buffet lunch for the whole family. Children can enjoy Santa's visit and presents.

Price: JD 12++ adults  
JD 6++ children

**FORTE HOTELS**



## Jordan Times

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## Rabin's way out

WITH PRESSURE mounting on Israel from all quarters to reverse its decision to deport 415 Hamas activists, the Rabin government would do well to start looking for ways with which it can comply with the international request for the repatriation of the expelled Palestinians. For one thing, Israel can no longer draw comfort from the fact that U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton will assume power in January and therefore escape the heat touched off by its ill-advised course to collectively punish the people of the occupied territories. Clinton has strongly indicated that Israel has gone too far in deporting the over four hundred Palestinians as a reaction, or overreaction, to the kidnapping and killing of an Israeli soldier last week. Even the fact also that the U.N. Security Council has unanimously called on Israel to reverse its deportation decision on the basis that it is in flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the support that this judgement has drawn from the European Community (EC) and other quarters, there is no way that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin can in any way get away with his arbitrary and desperate decision to expel Hamas activists en masse.

Rabin has only one way to save face and simultaneously yield to international pressure and that is to "use" the High Court of Israel for the purpose of rolling back from the bind that he finds himself, just as he "used" the same court to expedite his politically inspired decision in favour of expelling the affected Palestinians. This should not be difficult for him to do since by all juridical accounts, the High Court has acted rashly when it acted to accommodate Rabin's decision to appease the Israeli public opinion that was demanding a swift and effective response to the killing of the Israeli soldier.

The available legal acrobatics are many if there is a political will to deploy them for this purpose. Since the deportees, their families or lawyers can petition the High Court of Israel for overruling the expulsion order, the members of that Court can still redeem themselves and their reputation by reexamining the entire file on expulsions. Amnesty International (AI) has already offered Israel and its legal system a way out when it stated Friday that "if any of them (deportees) is suspected of an offence, he should be charged and given a prompt and fair trial or released." This is the kind of language that the High Court of Israel should understand and act upon. Given the right opportunity, the Israeli High Court may just be able to correct the gross injustice done to the Palestinians. This is how Rabin also can rectify the grave error that he committed in this case under pressure from the extremist forces in his country.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAEL WAS not satisfied with the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon, it has been bragging that its action is designed to safeguard peace and protect the peace process. As Al Ra'i daily Saturday. The paper said that such claim can deceive no one since a crime can never be used as a tool to make peace. The Israeli crime, which has won the Jewish state condemnation from around the world, reflects Israel's evil character and shows the world that the Israeli leaders are far from the path of peace which they claim they are protecting, the paper said. The peace that is wanted for the region, so that it can enjoy security and stability, is one based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, added the daily. Peace, it added, can never be established by obstructing its path and by disregarding the will of the international community. Statements by Israeli leaders that the Jewish state will pursue efforts towards peace can get it absolved from the crime committed against the Palestinians and crimes and atrocities still taking place in the occupied lands, the paper continued. The paper said that Israel's practices are not only obstructing peace, they also violate the basic human rights and the Geneva conventions as well as all international principles and laws which provided for the rights of the civilian population under foreign occupation. By calling the attention of the world's major powers to the dangerous dimensions of the new Israeli crime, added the paper, Jordan is seeking help from the international community to repatriate the expelled Palestinians and halt all Israeli criminal actions.

BY DEPORTING the 418 Palestinians from their homeland to Lebanon, Mr. Rabin aimed to kill more than one bird with one stone, said Al Dustour daily. This escalation of terrorism and atrocities on the part of Israel aims at saving Mr. Rabin's political skin and among the extreme Zionist leaders who accused him of not achieving anything to date, the paper said. It said that Mr. Rabin so realises that sooner or later the Israeli delegation to the peace talks would have to discuss substantial issues with the Arabs and to pave the way for Israel to create an opportune climate which means excluding the Palestinian resistance movement from any future deals with the Arabs. By expelling the Palestinians, the Israeli government wants to improve its image before the aggression-oriented Israeli society and win its votes in future elections, added the daily. It said that, at the same time, Israel hopes that such an action could deal the death blow to the Palestinian infidelity which has entered the sixth year with more vigour and more determination than ever before, the paper added. To date, the Rabin's government has not succeeded in fulfilling the promises it gave the electorate, particularly in improving the economic conditions and reducing unemployment, the paper pointed out. It said that by expelling the Palestinians, Mr. Rabin is directing the Israelis' eyes towards an outside issue and covering up for his failures on the domestic front, blaming the Palestinians for the many ills facing the Jewish state.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Weak points in a strong budget

We definitely endorse the 1993 draft budget as a whole and consider it to be the best budget Jordan ever had in its recent history. But this generalisation should not prevent us from seeing certain weak points that deserve pointing out.

The first point that comes to mind is foreign grants, which were estimated at JD150 million (\$225 million). Only 39 per cent of these grants were actually committed by definite and named sources. The balance of JD91.6 million (\$137 million) was listed under the ambiguous title "Expected grants." Such expectations may come true, but they are not reliable. We harbour real fears that the expected grants may not materialise and, consequently, may be added to the bottom line deficit, at least in part.

The budget, on the other hand, did not include the payments of the armament fund, i.e., the servicing of previous military debts that were incurred on the hope that they will be paid out upon arrival of the delayed Arab aid which never arrived. The budget should include the payments of the treasury on behalf of the armament fund in order to reflect the real state of financial affairs of the treasury. The interest element of this fund, payable in 1993, amounts to approximately JD145 million (\$217 million).

Like the budget of 1992, the budget of 1993 was extremely generous in allowing funds for capital expenditure. No more than two thirds of these funds will be actually spent. There is no need

to inflate capital expenditure figures if we know in advance that the entire amount is not likely to be disbursed. It is evident that the private sector is currently very aggressive in making huge investments. This situation allows the government to postpone part of its own capital investment to prevent overheating the economy beyond its absorption limit, which may give rise to inflationary pressures and have a negative impact on the balance of payments. The government should become more aggressive in its capital outlays when we have an economic recession.

The budget did not show the surplus resulting from selling fuel to the public at prices higher than the international prices, which should have appeared as other miscellaneous revenue or as indirect tax. Likewise, the budget did not disclose the surplus resulting from receiving the Iraqi crude oil at concessional prices, which should appear under Arab aid or foreign grants. The amount involved is approximately JD115 million (\$170 million). Apparently, the minister of finance is using the oil surplus to pay part of the commitments of the armament fund. We have nothing against such practice except that it should be dealt with within the budget and not as an off budget item.

The minister of finance address, which admittedly was strong, informative and comprehensive, used the figures of the balance of payments on cash basis, especially when talking about the current

account and the capital account. We think that the account more meaningful. The cash basis produced a comfortable simply because some due installments on foreign trade were not actually paid. The surplus on cash basis is not real, and the non-payment of amounts due to foreign trade is accounted for before we arrive at the real outcome balance of payments and especially the important item of current account. We suggest that amounts which were not paid, should appear in the debit side of the account regarding principal, while the whole amount appear in the credit side of the capital account as a means of exceptional financing. Even agreed rescheduling of accounts for in the balance of payments to give the correct.

Finally, the budget did not mention the guarantees of the treasury to enable certain public sector entities, such as Water Authority, to obtain loans to meet immediate needs. Such guarantees, and the underlying loans, were postponed the recognition in the budget of actual expenditure especially when those public sector entities suffer from deficit and until they are shaken up will never be able to repay their loans from their own resources. It is of course no use forward deficits for future budgets when the loans are

## Attacks strengthen Hamas on Palestinian street

By Robert Mahoney  
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — By attacking Israeli soldiers this month Islamic militants have moved out of the mosque and onto the street to challenge the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and its policy of support for peace talks.

The Islamic resistance movement Hamas has boosted its standing among many ordinary Palestinians by renewing the armed struggle against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians and Israeli security sources said.

The PLO once championed armed struggle too, but for the past 14 months the organisation has set its sights on a negotiated settlement through the U.S.-sponsored peace talks.

Hamas, which Israeli promoted in the 1980s in an attempt to weaken the more powerful PLO, has become the focus of one of the biggest Israeli crackdowns in years.

It has tapped the frustration felt by some Palestinians that the U.S.-sponsored peace process is doing little to get Israeli soldiers out of their villages and refugee camps.

The Qassam military arm of Hamas said it ambushed two army jeeps this month killing four soldiers. It also kidnapped and later killed a paramilitary border policeman.

In all, six Israeli soldiers and 11 Palestinians have been killed so far this month, the bloodiest

period since the peace talks began last year.

"With the Gaza jeep ambush Hamas won over one half of the street," said a Gaza Strip activist from Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction of the PLO. "With the Hebron attack it captured the other half."

The army says Fateh still accounts for the biggest number of attacks on Israelis, such as fire-bombings and stonings. But Fateh activists have watched popular support erode as Hamas and radical PLO factions opposed to the peace talks staged the headline-grabbing attacks on soldiers and Jewish settlers.

"With the Gaza jeep ambush Hamas won over one half of the street. With the Hebron attack it captured the other half."

"It is not so much that people support Hamas' ideology," said a West Bank Fateh supporter. "It's that they see Hamas are tough. While our negotiators in Washington are getting nowhere they (Hamas) are pushing the Israelis."

He noted that after the kidnapping Israeli Cabinet Minister Haim Ramon spoke of the need

for a phased withdrawal from the teeming Gaza Strip.

This brought a rebuke from government colleagues who argued that any such concession would only encourage Hamas.

Israeli security said they feared elements in Fateh might imitate Hamas after seeing the effect the kidnapping had among both Palestinians and Israelis.

The Hamas spokesman in Jordan, Mohammad Nazzari, urged the PLO to follow its lead.

"This might be a message for the PLO to intensify its military operations and to play its role, because if all the Palestinian factions joined ranks, Israel would not single out one particular group and crack down on it," Mr. Nazzari said.

Israel has rounded up 1,200 Palestinians since the kidnapping. The crackdown came on the heels of more than 200 arrests in November.

Previous sweeps during the five-year-old uprising have set back Hamas but it has always recovered, rebuilding tightly knit structures that centre on the mosque.

Security sources said many Hamas sympathisers had not been detained in the crackdown. Hamas claims 40 per cent support among the nearly two million Palestinians in the occupied lands. PLO sources put the figure at about 25 per cent.

Also still at large are known hard-core Qassam members, who Israeli security sources say number about 10 people in the Gaza Strip.

## Secular Muslims turn to Islam in quest for arms

By Adam LeBar

TRAVNIK — At first it was just a whisper, a word quietly mouthed among the markets and mosques as Bosnia was laid waste, its people murdered and their houses turned to ashes.

Now it is spoken aloud: betrayal. You, the West, have betrayed us say Bosnia's Muslims, so we will turn to the East and Islam.

As Serb forces continue their seemingly unstoppable advance across Bosnia, support is growing among the country's previously almost secular Muslims for an alliance with the Arab and Islamic world.

In places such as Travnik the cry of betrayal resounds louder. This city of 17 mosques, a fort and an Islamic college, was once the seat of a Turkish vizier under the Ottomans, when the Bosnian Slavs converted to Islam. The mixed population of 70,000 is swollen by 20,000 refugees.

"I know that I'm a Bosnian Muslim, but I don't know how I am going to defend myself," said Ahmet, a soldier in his 40s fighting in the Bosnian army. "The arms embargo must be lifted and we know that the Arab World is working on it." Serb forces are just a few miles up the road outside the village of Turbe, which is pounded daily. Travnik, too, is comfortably within range of their big guns and is regularly shelled. The boom and rumble of the fighting echoes around its streets.

"Serbs call us Muslim fundamentalists but the Muslims here are the most modern in the world," Ahmet said. "But this is a fight for survival. I've been through many danger zones and across front lines and what I have seen is complete madness. Everything is destroyed and burnt down. So people are trying to save themselves and grasping at any straw."

A few miles outside Travnik is the fortified and closed off Mujahadeen base, home to a few hundred fighters from Arab and Islamic countries. At first the strictly religious Mujahadeen were not welcomed by local Bosnians, but attitudes are changing.

"Educated Muslims are silent about the Mujahadeen," said Davor, a local Croat journalist. Some Croats fear they are influencing Bosnian Muslims with an alien form of Islam. "Part of the Muslim population is turning suddenly and strongly to the East."

They feel betrayed and for them the Mujahadeen are brave and capable people who are killing the Croats.

Even with a new unified Croat-Bosnian command, reinforcements and the Mujahadeen near by, Travnik could still fall. "The Serbs have the power to conquer Bosnia," said Filip Filipovic, a commander in the Bosnian-Croat army. "They are playing a game of negotiation and if the U.N. does not act decisively, it will be giving a permit to aggression."

The fall of Travnik would be a military and moral disaster. Just

as the destroyed town was once a symbol of peace, Travnik is a Bosnian fight against the city is shaped like a book, "illumination" streets, houses, fields and mosques. So the most famous "winner of the Nobel literature, in his Chronicles."

Now the mosques up against shells and the graveyards, the lim and Croat are crowded with weeping. But more than the military cost of the would be the human tidal wave of tens of thousands of refugees, many from second time, flood Bosnia.

As Serbs advance and more Muslim re part of Bosnia drive between themselves in inians, raising the guerrilla war being the Balkans by mass sessed people.

"We are like," said Mervet, 25, living in Zenica and nian Muslims will get our land back. I satisfied with "just" country. If we have organisation I will fight until the end" of London.

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## King demands Israel reverse expulsion

(Continued from page 1)

particularly on the Palestinian level. On fundamentalism in the Arab World and in Israel, the King said: "First of all, the term 'Islamic fundamentalism' causes a great distress because it is meant to suggest that this is Islam as I understand it and believe it and as I have throughout my life adhered to it. This is a distortion of it and a mutilation of it. But one in generalise. I believe that there are conditions where anger, ignorance, despair (and) frustration are causing some to move in this direction. However, there are very clear distinctions in my mind between the acts of a few that are distorting Islam and its image in the world and proper Islam. On Jordan's commitment to and troops to Somalia, the King said: "Jordan has been involved in Somalia since considerable time through the United Nations. We do not view our help there as the humanitarian level by sending forces to Somalia as anything new. It is a continuation of our commitment all that we can do to have end that nightmare and carry out our duty. On the state of his health, the King said: "As far as my health is concerned I have been given a

## Israelis kill 6 Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

ported. The radio said the lawyers would argue that a 1970 supreme court ruling prohibits expulsions from any country cannot be found to be those expelled. Israel said the U.N. resolution condemning the expulsion of Palestinians was unjust and disappointing. A spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the resolution, adopted unanimously Friday, ignored the fact Israel had acted for banishment members Islamic fundamentalist groups which advocated violence. The Fourth Geneva Convention, the text cited by the Security Council, prohibits individuals or as forcible transfers from occupied territory for any reason. Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ashari, said: "Although this is the first time the Security Council has taken a one-sided resolution (on) Israel, it is particularly disappointing that it chose to ignore the nature of the groups and the Islamic Jihad to which those who were removed belonged." The agenda of these groups is only to kill Israeli citizens but to kill the peace process in the Middle East. "Anyone who supports the peace process... should have expected and should have understood the decision of the Israeli government to remove those people with the intent to fight terrorism and to pursue the peace-making process." The expulsion order said those expelled would have to stay outside Israel and the occupied territories for a maximum of two years. Those expelled can still appeal to the Israeli court through lawyers or attorneys. Mr. Rabin said Friday Israel would not give in to international pressure to let back the Palestinians.

"We have no intention of changing the decision," Mr. Rabin said. Asked if he regretted expelling them, he said: "By no means."

The U.N. resolution condemns mass expulsion as a violation of the Geneva convention and demands that Israel let the Palestinians back immediately. Although Security Council resolutions are considered legally binding, Israel has routinely ignored previous condemnations. The resolution was passed after a series of unsuccessful arguments from the United States that the Palestinians should also condemn the killings of Israeli soldiers.

At least one member of the Security Council, the United States, has vetoed the resolution. But, although it is the closest ally, it is considered a smaller expulsion. It is especially upset that one has interfered with the peace process. The resolution "strongly condemns the action taken by Israel in expelling power, to deport hundreds of Palestinian civilians, and expressed its firm opposition to such deportation by Israel."

U.S. Ambassador Edward Peckins said the expulsion "imposes an unfair burden on Lebanon" and "plays into the hands of those whose goal is to scuttle the peace process." While we have consistently condemned deportation, we cannot ignore and must equally condemn the brutal murders of Israelis by Hamas which preceded these deportations, and part of a deliberate strategy to undermine the peace process," Peckins said. The Palestine Liberation Orga-

clean bill of health. In this last visit to the Mayo Clinic there was no trace found of cancer in me at all. I am very very encouraged and pleased with this result. This gives me an opportunity to concentrate all my time and effort to consolidate the foundations to which Jordan stands now — Democracy, Pluralism, (and) human rights — and to consolidate the foundations that enable Jordan to be a good example, a torchbearer in our region, for others. So this is my mission and this is what I hope to contribute to whatever remains of life, confident that Jordan has a message, has a mission, and hopeful that Jordan would fulfil it in the future.

The interview was broadcast on the CNN's Today programme and was conducted during a visit to the King and Her Majesty Queen Noor paid to the network's Atlanta headquarters. The King and Queen met with CNN President Tom Jonson and top-level editors and producers of the network.

Earlier Friday, the King and the Queen met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife at the Carter Centre. After reviewing various world issues with the King, Mr. Carter expressed his support for Jordan's democratisation process and its role in the Middle East peace talks.

nisation's U.N. observer and the ambassadors of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Morocco also denounced the expulsions. "Mass deportation... is not so much different from the concept of ethnic cleansing and racism," said Mr. Nasser Al Kidwa, the Palestinian observer.

Beside the United States, the council includes four permanent members with veto power: Britain, China, France and Russia, and 10 members serving two-year terms: Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Hungary, India, Japan, Morocco, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

The council also asked Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to consider dispatching a representative to the area "to follow up with the Israeli government with regard to this serious situation."

The resolution is one of the toughest in a series dealing with Israeli expulsions since the start of the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. At the request of Lebanon, to which Israel expelled the Palestinians, the text reaffirms that country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The council's condemnation followed strong censure of Israel by the U.N. secretary-general, the European Community and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The PLO described as satisfactory the U.N. resolution but said the real test was what the Security Council would do to make Israel take the expelled Palestinians back.

## Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

minister of royal court affairs. Eissa Al Kawi, and Naguib Mohammad Naimi, advisor of the crown prince and defence minister.

Qatar and Saudi Arabia fell out on Sept. 30 with a flareup in their disputed border region that left two people dead. While Saudi Arabia played down the incident as an accident, Qatar charged it was an attack by Saudi armed forces and suspended a British-brokered pact governing the border strip.

With Saudi Arabia rejecting this stance, relations between the two countries have been strained for the past three months. Qatar has boycotted several meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance which groups the two countries along with Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Mr. Mubarak's mediation came on the eve of the annual summit conference of the six GCC member states, which is to be hosted Monday by the UAE, and was aimed at ensuring Qatar's participation.

GCC foreign ministers of the five other states have already met in Abu Dhabi without Qatar and formed up the agenda for the summit. The surprise breakthrough was described by a source close to Mr. Mubarak's delegation in Medina as "a slap in the face for Iran." Mr. Mubarak has been locked in a war of words with Iranian leaders after accusing Tehran of stoking the flames of fundamentalism across the Arab World — and especially to Egypt.

Cairo has made clear that the aim of the mediation is to prevent the Saudi-Qatar row from allowing Iran to gain a foothold on the Arab side of the Gulf.

## Hamas awaits invitation to Tunis

(Continued from page 1)

be ended immediately in light of the expulsions of 415 Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters from the occupied territories and the killing of six Palestinians in the Gaza Strip Saturday.

"These expelled people are Palestinians first and members of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad second," Mr. Ghosheh said.

Tunis-based PLO leaders appealed in public statements to all Palestinian factions and groups to come to Tunis to discuss the emergency situation. In the appeal, Yasser Abed Rabbo mentioned Hamas by name. PLO officials in Amman said they would encourage Tunis to send an official invitation but said that they could not guarantee the PLO leadership would make such a move.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat lashed out at Hamas in October comparing its political stand to that of the right-wing Zulus in

South Africa. Mr. Ghosheh said that his organisation would not meet with Mr. Arafat or any PLO official until Mr. Arafat made a public apology for "slandering Hamas."

According to Hamas leaders, reports that the group receives funding from the fundamentalist Shiite regime in Iran, are stories "planted" by the PLO to discredit the organisation in the eyes of the (Sunni) Palestinian populace which is suspicious of Iran's goals.

Hamas members admit receiving aid from charitable organisations in Saudi Arabia. They also say they have friendly relations with Iran, but they have only received token donations from Iranian welfare societies.

Last month Mr. Arafat flew to Khartoum to meet with Hamas leaders who snubbed him by failing to show up. Since then no contact between the PLO chairman and Hamas officials has taken place.

## U.S. says peace talks made progress

(Continued from page 1)

know is happening is that these serious issues are not only being engaged but that we've seen incremental progress in this last round and in the previous one on some of the most important ones," he said.

"We believe that 1993 can be a year of real achievement." The eighth round of the talks ended with the Palestinian delegation boycotting the closing session in protest over the expulsions.

"This round was useful," but no specific progress was achieved in the Jordanian-Israeli track, Abdul Salam Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, reported. Dr. Majali said the talks are still stalled over the agenda.

"We hope that the next round would be a better one and I hope that the Israelis will accept and understand our concern about the language of the agenda so to have everything clear and out of the way," he said.

Dr. Majali called the expulsion of the Palestinians "against the principle of international law, (and) the legitimate rights of the Palestinians." The Israeli action is a "great blow to the peace process itself," he said. Dr. Majali said Jordan hopes the United Nations Security Council will take "proper action" to reverse the expulsions.

Asked if the Arab delegations would return for a ninth round if the expulsions are not reversed, Majali said that decision will be made by the foreign ministers of the parties to the talks.

In a gesture that took on added significance because of the expulsions, which the United States and many other nations have condemned, President George Bush met at the White House with Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini.

Washington considers him important to peace efforts but he has been excluded from actual negotiations by Israel because he comes from East Jerusalem.

Initially, the meeting — the second in two days with Palestinians — was to be held in the office of White House Chief of Staff James Baker and Mr. Bush was going to "drop by."

But it was moved to the Oval Office and journalists were invited in for a "photo opportunity" — an apparent move to show empathy for the Palestinians and encourage them to remain in the peace talks.

Mr. Husseini warned at the start of the meeting that Israel's action "can destroy the whole peace process... something must be done to avoid such a result."

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi and two other Palestinian leaders also attended the meeting.

Afterwards, the Palestinians were flying to Tunis to consult with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which warned Thursday that peace talks would not resume unless the expulsions were reversed.

Dr. Ashrawi, speaking after the Oval Office meeting, suggested that the next few weeks

## Expelled Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

"But what lifts our morale is that Hizbollah slaughters Jews (Israelis). If we stay here and Lebanon remains determined not to let us in then we will have nothing but the rifle. We either die or return."

Some said they would prefer to stay in Lebanon and become guerrillas than return to the five-year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and stone Israeli troops.

"I would like to stay (in Lebanon)," said Omar Hassan, who said he was a student of Islamic studies and member of the Islamic Jihad movement. "I don't want to go back because I want to fight alongside Hizbollah."

Here the weapons are Kalashnikovs (rifles); there they are only stones."

## Jordan presses for action

(Continued from page 1)

that only through the implementation of U.N. resolutions can peace and security be safeguarded.

Lower House Speakers Abdul Latif Arabiyat sent a cable to

Abdul Qader Qaddoura, the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) chairman in Damascus, calling for an emergency APU meeting to discuss the situation in the wake of Israel's expulsion of

Palestinians. Jordan National Red Crescent Society President, Ahmad Abu Qoura, sent a letter to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) condemning the expulsion as a dastardly crime. Another condemnation came from the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (Jordan branch). The Israeli action violated human

rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the treatment of civilians under foreign occupation. It said. The organisation urged Arab and Islamic nations and the World community at large to take effective measures to end Israeli actions and to ensure that the Jewish state respect international laws.

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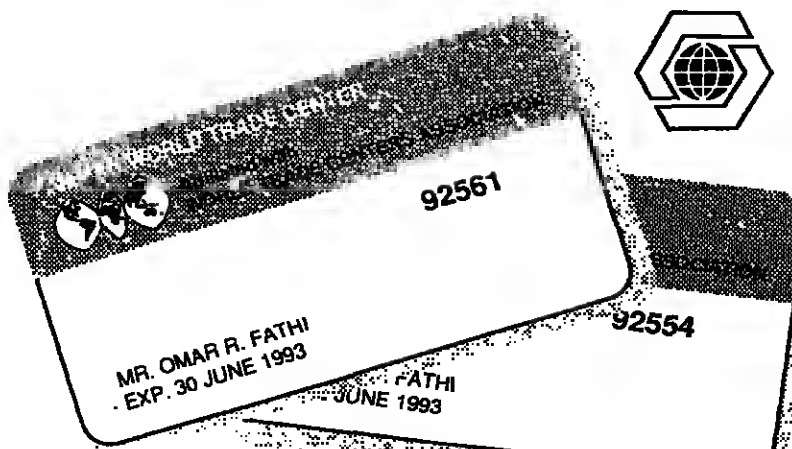
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## Comings, goings mark '92 GP season

PARIS (AP) — He came. He conquered. He left. Three times after finishing runner-up in the Formula One World championship, Nigel Mansell finally captured the big prize in 1992. Then he set his sights on a new challenge — Indy Cars.

It was a year of comings and goings, particularly on the Formula One scene — and not just Mansell.

Also leaving was Honda, which had won six world titles — most recently for McLaren — but was badly beaten by Williams Renault in 1992.

Announcing his return for 1993 was three-time world champion Alain Prost, who was fired by Ferrari the year before and spent 1992 watching from the television broadcast booth.

Not knowing if he was coming for going was three-time champion Ayrton Senna, who spent much of 1992 trying to make up his mind about the 1993 season.

The Brazilian was unhappy with Williams Renault's dominance and adopted a wait-and-see attitude on McLaren's replacement for the Honda engine.

Meanwhile, no offered his services for free to Williams until Prost announced his return with the team. That eliminated another confrontation between the three-time world champions, who fought bitterly when they were both with McLaren and when they raced on opposite teams. These guys don't get along.



World Formula One champion Nigel Mansell holds the 1992 F-1 trophy. Mansell is on crutches after a recent foot operation (AFP photo).

An arrival — of sorts — was the emergence of Germany's Michael Schumacher. In his first full season he finished third in the Formula One standings behind Mansell and the Williams' other driver, Riccardo Patrese of Italy, driving in his Benetton Ford.

Schumacher won the Belgian Grand Prix one year after debut-

ing in Formula One there consistently finished among the leader throughout the season.

Another driver coming to Formula One racing in 1993, or leaving Indy Cars depending on your perspective, was one with a pedigree and carload of trophies. American Michael Andretti, son of 1970 World Champion

Mario, signed with McLaren team and after his 1991 IndyCar title will try a new challenge.

The younger Andretti hopes to reestablish American interest on the circuit. The United States hasn't had a driver since Eddie Cheever in 1989 and hasn't won a race since Mario Andretti in 1970.

Mansell will replace Michael on the Newman-Haas team in IndyCar. Mansell reportedly signed a contract for \$5 million to come to Newman-Haas, about half of what he was making at Williams.

Gerhard Berger, Senna's McLaren teammate this year, heads to Ferrari next season while Patrese had a victory in Japan that Mansell handed to him.

Finally, the Grand Prix of Asia departed before it came. Scheduled at Autopolis Race Track in Western Japan, the race was initially on the 1993 schedule.

Then, after Autopolis went bankrupt in September, the sport's governing body, FISA, replaced it with the Grand Prix of Europe at Donington Park, England.

On the IndyCar Circuit, it was Bobby Rahal's year, but Al Unser Jr. won the big prize — The Indianapolis 500.

"I can't tell you how winning that race made me feel," Unser said. "We came so close before and didn't get it, and you never know if you're ever going to get another chance to win it."



Dutch star Marco Van Basten has won the European Footballer of the Year award for the third time.

## European footballer of year Van Basten out for 2 months

PARIS (R) — Dutch striker Marco Van Basten is to be named European Footballer of the Year Sunday, the day before an ankle operation which will keep him out of action for up to eight weeks.

Van Basten, one of AC Milan's star performers, also won the award in 1988 and 1989.

He becomes only the third player to be chosen three times, after compatriot Johan Cruyff and Frenchman Michel Platini.

But as reliable sources confirmed his success Friday, AC Milan announced the Dutchman faced surgery.

Van Basten underwent tests at a clinic in St. Moritz, Switzerland after missing Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Turkey because of his injury.

AC Milan said in a statement:

"After a careful examination, the surgeon decided he would have to undergo an operation to clean the cartilage of his right ankle. The operation will be performed Monday."

"He will have to wait six to eight weeks before resuming play."

Van Basten beat hot favourite Hristo Stoichkov to Sunday's award. The Bulgarian played a key-role in Barcelona's European Cup success last season.

Van Basten has been a leading member of the record-breaking AC Milan side and last month scored all four goals in the demolition of IFK Gothenburg in an European Cup clash.

But in the European Championship semifinals in June he missed a vital penalty in a shoot-out won by Denmark.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Romanian club give stadium \$4 million face-lift

BUCHAREST (R) — Former European soccer champions Steaua Bucharest are giving their stadium a \$4 million facelift on proceeds from the transfer abroad of nine players after the 1990 World Cup. "We want the stadium to be up to Steaua's top soccer performance," Alin Savu, a spokesman for the 1986 European Cup winners, said Friday. Steaua made more than \$9 million transferring nine players including Romanian World Cup stars Gheorghe Hagi and Marius Lacatus to Western European clubs in the second half of 1990, club sources said.

#### Useful away win for French champions

PARIS (R) — Marseille won 1-0 at Paris St Germain Friday to maintain their hopes of a repeat French championship success. The solitary goal came in the 22nd minute through a header by Croatian Alen Boksic. It was only the second home defeat this season for the Paris club and lifted Marseille to third place.

## World champions Germany face Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO (R) — World soccer champions Germany need to beat Uruguay convincingly in a friendly Sunday to stem the tide of criticism battering both the team and coach Berti Vogts.

Defeat against a Uruguayan side who will be without some of their top players could put Vogts' job in jeopardy.

Vogts is attempting to rebuild the German team following the retirement from the international scene of defender Andy Brehme and striker Rudi Voeller.

But home draws against Austria and Mexico, followed by a 3-1 defeat against injury-hit Brazil Wednesday, have brought Vogts under fire from a German public which is used to seeing its national team winning.

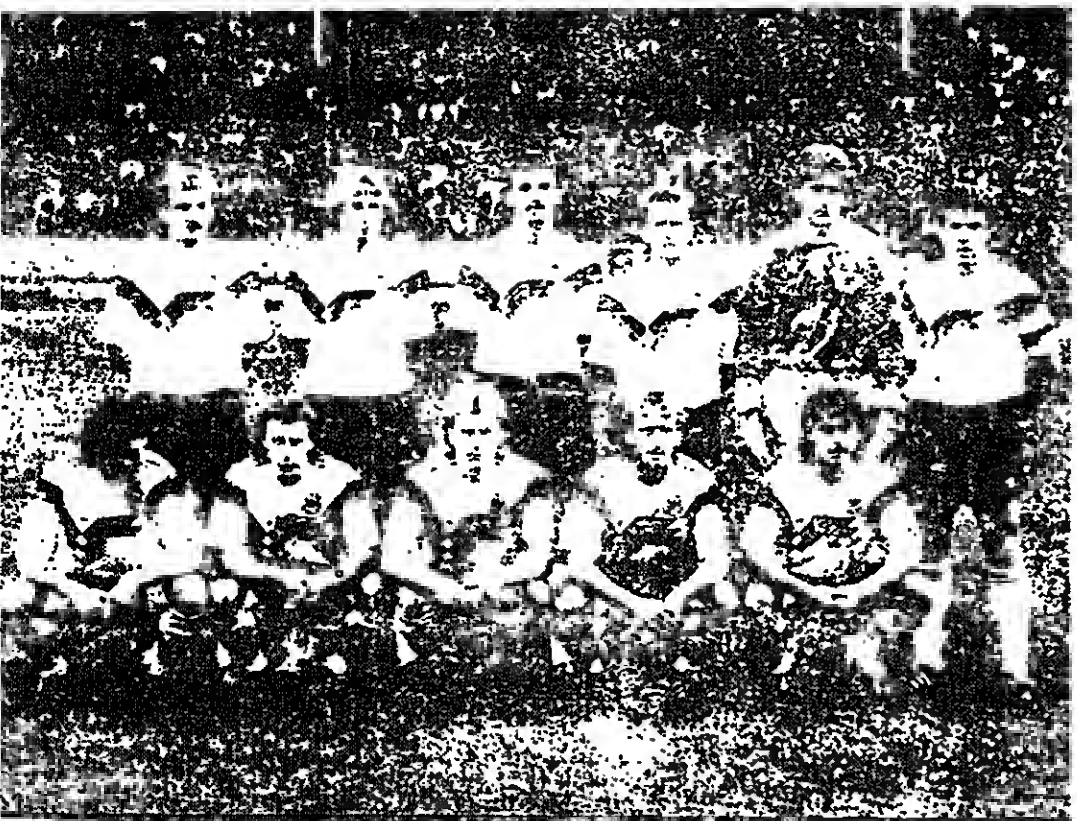
"We will be under intense pressure against Uruguay, not because of Uruguay but because of ourselves," said striker Jurgen Klinsmann.

Critics say Vogts has had enough time to get his team sorted out. "He has had 18 months. He just needs things to run his way," said former world cup forward Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, now a television commentator.

Vogts has not named his team but said that Lazio striker Thomas Doll would partner Klinsmann in attack.

Finding a new striking partner for Klinsmann is proving one of Vogts' biggest headaches. Bayer Leverkusen's Andreas Thom was tried against Brazil but rarely threatened the home defence.

Vogts said he would test



The German national team

The 75,000 capacity Centenario Stadium is expected to be only half full for the visit of the world champions. The local Penarol-Nacional derby was played last weekend and Uruguayans say ticket prices are too high for them to go to two matches in a week, since recovering from a serious knee injury.

Uruguay will be without star players Ruben Sosa, Daniel Fonseca and Carlos Aguilera because of a long-standing dispute between the trio and coach Luis Cubilla.

Bayern Munich's Olaf Thon in

the sweeper role in place of Guido Buchwald, who was tried on Wednesday.

The trainer said Lothar Matthaus would also play, despite his disappointing showing against Brazil in his first international

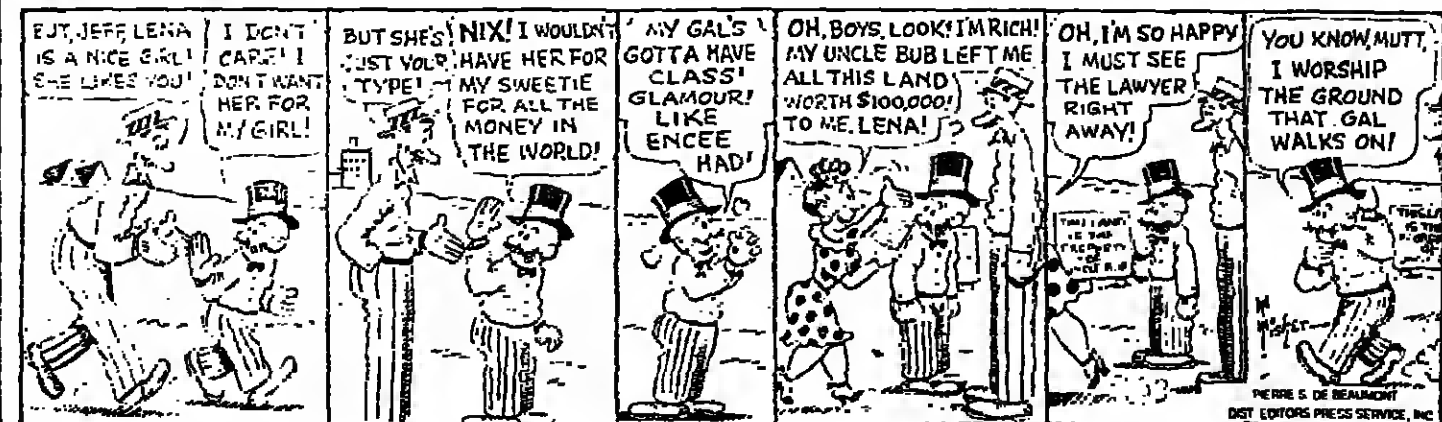
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 20, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll, Richter, Fong

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** This first day of Hanukkah is the last episode of Sagittarius offering you an excellent opportunity to get together with companions to state very frankly your plans for greater future accord.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Be off to whatever you can do to extend your interests both in personal contacts and in discussion while the evening happiness should be yours at home.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Look at your property and possessions and see what can be done to improve them during the daytime while tonight visit neighbors, kin and comrades.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You have considerable charm which you can use to please good friends in the evening think how you can be helpful in more practical lines.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Do whatever will bring one of whom you are very fond some of that persons hearts desire, then you can be off and show affection for good friends.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get several interesting acquaintances together so friendships can develop today while tonight get off alone and be romantic with your mate.

**VERGO:** (August 22 to September 22) There have been some influential persons who have been helpful

to you and this is the day I your appreciation evening by a phone call.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 23) A newcomer of whom fond and want further check to be signed of your so give it today and tonight respect for a bigwig.

**SCORPIO:** (October 24 to November 21) One who has been to you in a business matter value hearing from you and all worked out while tonight you like a stranger of the

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) An astrologer gives you valuable suggestions out worldly matters is a some evidence of your tonight back your mate a

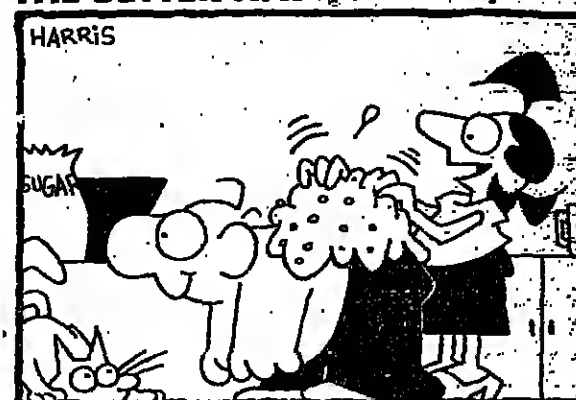
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Try to associate and let your wit greater accord in the future definitely know, while later same will be as conditional if

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Playmates who have in your recreations without be delighted if your show special interest in them, you same applies to a fellow

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Don't take your family for granted, but back up them by telling them how much care, tonight then be off to entertainments.

### THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I can save time if I do your back rubs and my holiday cookies at the same time!"

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUCIL

KERAM

EEDDAC

POWDL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O"

Yesterday's Jumbles: COLIC LINER YELLOW PHYSIC

Answer: How pizzas are often delivered — BY "PIE-CYCLE"

(Answers Monday)

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus

ACROSS

1 Like some deals

8 So be it

10 Football team

14 Hawk's toost

15 Plateau

16 In line

17 Beetle Bailey's military post

18 Coos

20 Agent

21 Deck officer

22 Brought disgrace upon

24 Fearless

26 Remove

27 Vehicles

30 Scariest place

32 Image

33 Nabors on TV

34 Cavalryman

41 Subterfuge

42 Camp guards

44 Footless creature

45 Words by Caesar

46 Harold and Richard

48 Type of training

52 Sinus cavity

54 Start

56 Long time: var.

57 — clear day.

58 Manoe —

61 Bailey's NCO

64 Green fruit

65 — were (so to)

66 Dragoon

67 Brins

68 Risque

69 Explains

DOWN

1 Pouches

2 Mound

3 Defensive group

4 Immerse

5 Sycophant

6 Famous name in

7 Keepsake

8 Intuitive letters

9 Voice notes

10 Speed trap device

11 Redolence

12 Changes residence

13 Scandinavian

14 Armed conflicts

15 "O! — choose to run" (Coolidge)

16 Amusements

17 Wags

18 Farmland

19 Roughneck

20 Race one's motor

21 Garbo

22 Hymn

23 Happy cry

24 Singsong

25 Singsong

26 Presley's middle name

27 Remnants

28 Section

29 Suffix

30 Madman

31 Jazzy dance

32 Wright and Mar

33 Ruler of you

34 Soccer star

35 Copy books

36 Shawnee

37 Jazzy

38 Ruler of you

39 Soccer star

40 Copy books

41 Shawnee

42 Jazzy

43 Ruler of you

44 Soccer star

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96 Shawnee

97 Jazzy

98 Ruler of you

99 Soccer star

100 Copy books



# Economy

## Ankara signs 1.8 bn metro deals

ANKARA (R) — The city of Ankara signed two deals totalling \$880 million on Friday to build an underground railway. One deal for the 11.6-kilometre project was with a consortium including Canadian Bombardier. The other was a \$220-million loan agreement from a 16-bank group to finance construction of the 14.6-kilometre line. Mayor Murat Karayalcin told reporters the railway would be completed in 48 months. The city is expected to sign another agreement with a \$260 million export credit, guaranteed by the British and British governments, to contribute to financing the project, officials said.

## Jordan Times

**Financial Markets**  
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

1. Dollar in International Markets

Country	New York Close	Amman Close
United States	1.5795	1.5660
United Kingdom	1.5576	1.5640
France	1.3975	1.4085
Germany	5.3250	5.3470
Japan	122.84	123.08
Japanese Currency Unit	1.2575**	1.2455

2. Foreign Exchange Rates (USD/100 JD)

Country	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
United States	3.31	3.31	3.43	4.00
United Kingdom	7.37	7.19	6.88	6.81
France	9.19	9.00	8.50	7.93
Germany	6.25	6.12	5.95	5.50
Japan	12.00	11.56	10.87	9.75
Japanese Yen	3.90	3.75	3.68	3.65
Japanese Currency Unit	10.87	11.06	10.06	9.31

3. Gold and Silver Prices (USD/100 JD)

Commodity	USD/100 JD	JD/Gm
Gold	337.25	6.60
Silver	3.79	0.60

## Taiwan to remove curbs on foreign investment

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan will lift restrictions on foreign investment to attract more overseas capital and meet requirements for entry into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a senior official was quoted as saying.

"We will try to meet GATT standards when we revise our rules on foreign investment," the economic Daily News quoted Vice Economics Minister Chiang Ping-Kun as saying.

Mr. Chiang said Taiwan would open up more sectors of its economy to foreign investors, though he did not give details or say when the reforms would occur. Foreigners are banned from investing in several areas, including agriculture and mining.

He said regulations covering remittances of foreign capital to Taiwan would be relaxed, and foreign enterprises would receive the same privileges as domestic investors.

Foreign investment in Taiwan has been falling rapidly because of the global economic slowdown and rising domestic labour costs. New foreign projects slid 29 per cent from a year earlier to \$1.18 billion in the first 11 months of 1992.

## Airline survey puts delays as biggest consumers' complaint

NEW YORK (R) — American Airlines was rated the best national carrier in the United States and Delta Air Lines finished a close second in a consumer survey.

But regional carrier Alaska Airlines was ranked the No. 1 airline overall, out of 11 airlines listed by the Zagat airline survey.

Among the international carriers, four of the five top positions were captured by Asian carriers. The exception was Swissair, which took second place.

In general, the international carriers beat the U.S. airlines. But the survey, conducted by Nina and Tim Zagat, who publish the consumer-based Zagat Travel Guides, noted the international carriers had the advantage of being rated on long-haul, widebody international service, as opposed to domestic carriers, which generally make shorter flights.

The biggest complaint consumers had was delays. Survey respondents were asked to rate each airline on a scale of 0-30 on comfort, timeliness, reliability and food.

The Zagats ranked 19 international carriers. Singapore Airlines was rated No. 1, and Aeroflot, the former Soviet airline, was ranked last.

The 11 domestic U.S. airlines ranked overall were, in descending order: Alaska Airlines, Midwest Express, American, Delta, United Airlines, America West, Northwest Airlines, regional carrier Southwest, USAIR, Continental Airlines and TWA.

The 5,000 survey participants were part of a larger group of more than 7,000 contributors to an annual Zagat travel poll of hotels, spas and resorts, which will be published in a single volume guide in early 1993.

## Egypt prepares to be world phosphates exporter

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will double exports of phosphates this year and is preparing to mine an enormous seam of phosphate rock that will make it a significant producer of the commodity, officials have said.

Adel Abdul Karim, chairman of the State Mining Company, said it had closed contracts on 100,000 tonnes since the start of the new financial year in July. He expected exports for 1992/93 to total 300,000 tonnes compared to 135,000 tonnes for 1991/92.

Another mining official said mining at the Abu Tartour quarry in Egypt's Western Desert would begin in 1994/95 and reach 2.2 million tonnes the following year.

He said this would earn Egypt about \$50 million at current market rates and make it a significant exporter of phosphates, which are used to make fertilisers.

Abdul Monem Ismail, chairman of the Organisation for Mining and Industrial Complexes,

said proven reserves at the Abu Tartour deposit were about seven billion tonnes, giving Egypt about seven per cent of world reserves.

The Abu Tartour project, which involves building a 600 kilometre railway to link it with the Red Sea port of Safage, will cost a total of about \$800 million, Mr. Ismail said.

Mr. Abdul Karim said Egypt's earnings from low-grade rock would total only about \$24 a tonne, or about \$7.2 million in 1992/93. But he expected demand for Egyptian rock to rise despite a world slump.

"The market is saturated and our phosphate rock is low-grade but they are much more in favour now because of pollution concerns," he said. "There are far fewer trace metals in them."

Western countries have introduced strict laws in recent years governing the permissible

amount of metals in phosphates and other fertilisers, which end up in human organs through the food cycle.

The United States is beset by a glut in phosphate production and demand in Europe is flat but industry analysts expect demand to rise steadily in developing countries as they struggle to boost production to feed their booming populations.

Mr. Abdul Karim said Egypt's main customers included India, Indonesia, Sierra Leone and Albania.

Morocco is the world's largest exporter with about 13 million tonnes in 1990 and two-thirds of the world's reserves, or about 68 billion tonnes.

Contracts worth \$120 million have already been completed on the Abu Tartour project, which will include a concentration plant and other downstream activities to add value to Egyptian phosphates.

## Japan unveils guidelines financial reform

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ministry of finance (MOF), hoping to ease the pain of deregulation for battered brokerages, has said it would put strict controls on subsidiaries of banks set up to do securities business.

The ministry unveiled detailed guidelines on the activities of securities subsidiaries of banks under financial reforms that take effect next April.

The most sweeping reforms since 1945, aimed at enhancing competition and efficiency by lowering barriers between financial sectors, will enable banks and brokerages to set up subsidiaries in ordinary banking, trust banking and securities.

The guidelines cover the pace at which banks would set up new business, include measures to avoid conflicts of interest and introduce so-called fire walls, dividing operations between parent institutions and subsidiaries.

However, the controls on the activities of securities arms of banks will be more stringent than earlier planned because the heavy losses suffered by securities firms increased their opposition to the reforms.

Tadashi Ogawa, director general of the MOF's securities bureau, said at a news con-

ference: "We worked out the scheme taking account of current tough business conditions in the securities industry."

"While the reforms are aimed at increasing effective and appropriate competition, they will be made steadily and gradually since a rapid change is likely to cause problems," Nobuyuki Teramura, director general of the MOF's banking bureau, added.

The guidelines for the range of securities business the subsidiaries can carry out, and other restrictions, will be reviewed two or three years after they start business, he said.

MOF officials listed the major guidelines as follows: — The minimum capital of securities subsidiaries of banks is set at 10 billion yen (\$81 million) and that of trust banking arms at two billion yen (\$16 million).

— The activities of securities arms of banks will be limited to underwriting and broking of straight bonds and underwriting and sale of convertible bonds (CBS) and warrant bonds (WBS).

The arms will not be allowed for the time being to underwrite and broker equities, or to offer brokerage services for CBS and WBS.

— Securities arms will generally be kept from lead-managing corporate bond issues if their parent banks have served as main underwriters in a certain period. But this "main bank rule" will not apply to bond placements by firms whose net assets total 500 billion yen (\$4 billion) or more.

— Bank officials appointed as directors of the new subsidiaries doing securities business will not be allowed to return as employees of the parent banks.

— Trust banking units to manage investors' funds, to be set up by other types of banks and securities houses, will be given access to such business as land trusts, securities trusts, investment trusts and fund trusts. But they are not allowed to handle so-called "tokkin" special money trusts and designated money trusts for independent management.

Over the next five years the MOF will gradually abolish the 17-year-old ban on overseas securities arms of banks lead-managing bonds placed by Japanese companies in markets outside Japan.

As for the speed at which banks may start securities business, the MOF will give priority to long-term credit banks, trust banks and the central bodies of small financial institutions such as the Norinchukin Bank for Agricultural Cooperatives.

## Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 19.12.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
United Kingdom	1.0750	1.0804
France	0.4389	0.4411
Germany	0.4876	0.4900
Japan	0.1285	0.1291
Switzerland	0.5576	0.5604
Italy	0.3905	0.3923
Spain	0.0992	0.0997
Belgium	0.0489	0.0491
Netherlands	0.02133	0.02144

Date: 19.12.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
United States	1.7970	1.8200
United Kingdom	0.03615	0.03625
France	0.1829	0.1840
Germany	2.2300	2.3000
Japan	0.1861	0.1872
Switzerland	0.2020	0.2150
Italy	1.7580	1.7820
Spain	0.1861	0.1872
Netherlands	0.3295	0.3339
Belgium	1.4565	1.4745

Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	9.12.1992 Close	10.12.1992 Close
Amman	166.04	167.74
Bank Sector	119.65	120.80
Non-Bank Sector	182.92	183.26
Industries Sector	227.21	229.61
Govt Sector	235.62	239.15

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**TOO HOT TO HANDLE**  
Show: 6:15 only

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You have a date with the play  
**"Ta'a wa qaimah"**  
In the beginning of 1993  
Happy New Year

**Cinema** Tel: 634144

**PHILADELPHIA**

**HARD TO KILL**  
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Special show for children  
Thursdays + Fridays at 11 a.m.  
**Kindergarten Cop**

**AHLAN THEATRE** Tel: 625155

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**new year's eve .. a night to remember kan zaman village .. a place in time**  
641959



## Yeltsin returns to 'restore order' as Moscow drama takes new twist

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, declaring that "the master must restore order," returned home early from a visit to China Saturday as Russia's political drama took an unexpected twist.

Mr. Yeltsin, who said he was cutting short his Chinese trip because attempts were being made to pull apart his reformist government, was met at Moscow's Vnukovo Airport by his deputy Alexander Rutskoi and parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov.

The Russian capital was calm and it was unclear what had prompted the president to rush back.

"Someone has started fighting for (government) portfolios too early, to pull the government apart. So the master must return to restore order," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters in Peking.

He said the core of the government team must be preserved in spite of the replacement of radical reform chief Yegor Gaidar as prime minister by the more conservative Viktor Chernomyrdin.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying on arrival in Moscow it was essential "to start the formation of a new government immediately — and the main thing is to preserve the nucleus of the Gaidar government."

Mr. Yeltsin was reluctantly forced to drop free-market reformer Gaidar and nominate former Soviet technocrat Chernomyrdin last Monday under pressure from

centrists and conservatives in Russia's supreme legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies.

Mr. Yeltsin, quick to address Western concerns at a possible slowing of reforms, was at pains earlier this week to stress that the change of prime minister would not mean a deviation from the free-market road.

Nor, he told visiting German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, would it bring a sweeping overhaul of the cabinet.

But, speaking before leaving Peking, he made it clear he believed the reformist cabinet was under threat.

"You see, Gaidar introduced his team, his young inner core of reformers. A new prime minister wants to bring in his own, but the inner core of Gaidar's reformers must not under any circumstances be pulled apart."

The president insisted: "The government must be left in place so that it can operate, and work on reform. Therefore, I will not let it be removed under any circumstances."

Mr. Chernomyrdin's first act as prime minister was to ask all ministers to stay in their posts. None has so far resigned and the new prime minister is due to finalise his cabinet by Tuesday.

Officials in Mr. Yeltsin's press office declined to elaborate on the reasons for his return.

One Moscow political analyst said it might be linked to an article in the liberal newspaper Izvestia Thursday which quoted influential centrist politician

Arkady Volsky as calling for major changes to the cabinet.

Mr. Volsky has subsequently denied comments attributed to him in the article and threatened to sue the newspaper.

A Kremlin official, who declined to be identified, played down any connection between Mr. Yeltsin's return and the article.

"All those remarks (attributed to Volsky) are false. It was a journalist's invention. Volsky has denied it," he said.

TASS said Mr. Chernomyrdin flew to neighbouring Kazakhstan Friday to discuss policies, including supplies of Kazakh grain to Russia. He was due to meet Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Sergei Tereshchenko.

Foreign Trade Minister Pyotr Aven, one of the core group of radicals holding key economic ministries in Mr. Gaidar's team, said on returning from a trip to Paris Friday that he and his colleagues would decide "collectively" whether to serve under Mr. Chernomyrdin.

He said members of the Gaidar team did not want to "slam the door" on the new prime minister but they needed to find out what economic course Mr. Chernomyrdin would follow.

"I don't have any prejudice against Chernomyrdin," he said.

He added that ministers would meet Saturday or Sunday to take a joint decision on whether to stay.

The only one who has definitely pledged to remain so far is Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chu-

bais.

Economics Minister Andrei Nechayev, another leading radical, called Mr. Gaidar's departure a blow to reform but said it was necessary to "wait a little" to find out whether large-scale cabinet changes were in the offing.

"Despite my respect for the new head of government as an experienced man, a strong man, undoubtedly a consistent man, I think of course the departure of Gaidar is a colossal loss for Russian reforms," he told Russian Television.

Mr. Nechayev said the Gaidar team had itself recognised the need for some "corrections" to the course of reforms and proposed changes to parliament.

"If the new head of government...thinks these corrections must be substantially bigger, then probably he will select a corresponding team to conduct a different course."

Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov as saying on arrival in Moscow: "Certain political figures and parties have become too active in questions concerning formation of the government."

He did not elaborate.

Mr. Yeltsin told reporters at the airport he was going to hold consultations with Mr. Chernomyrdin and First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko Sunday and Monday with a view to forming the cabinet by Tuesday.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was expected to return to Moscow from Kazakhstan about 7 p.m. (1600 GMT).

## De Klerk shocked by plots, sacks 6 generals

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African President F.W. de Klerk said Saturday he had sacked or suspended 23 military officers, including generals, for illegal activities, possibly including murder.

Mr. De Klerk said an investigation had been ordered a month ago had uncovered preliminary evidence of covert military intelligence operations possibly designed to torpedo his apartheid reform programme.

"I am shocked, I am disappointed. But I am also resolute," he told a news conference.

"If there is a sore, I want to cut it out," he said.

Mr. De Klerk declined to give details or to name the officers. He said further information would be made available as the inquiries progressed.

"I think I can say that the findings will lead to the conclusion that some of the activities did lead to the deaths of people," he said in response to persistent questioning.

Mr. De Klerk said senior officers were trying to contact 23 defence force members, including two generals and four brigadiers, to tell them they had been put on compulsory leave or immediately retired.

He said every effort would be made to charge those who were involved in illegal activities, adding: "We will make sure that not one of these people is in a position to cover his tracks."

Mr. De Klerk said Air Force General Pierre Steyn, whom he appointed on Nov. 18 to investigate allegations of unauthorised military intelligence operations, had briefed him on the initial findings of his enquiry.

Mr. De Klerk appointed Gen. Steyn after Supreme Court Judge Richard Goldstone, who is probing the causes of political violence in South Africa, revealed that military intelligence had hired convicted double-murderer Ferdi Barnard to undermine Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

"This information...indicates that a limited number of members, contract members and collaborators of the South African Defence Force have been involved, and in some cases are still involved, in illegal and/or unauthorised activities and malpractices," Mr. De Klerk said.

Mr. De Klerk said there was no evidence that officers had planned a coup, but he said some had operated according to personal political agendas and could have been in contact with right-wing groups outside the government or the defence force.

"There are indications that some of the activities and some of the individuals might have been motivated by a wish to prevent us from succeeding in our (reform) goals," he said.

Mr. De Klerk said there was no evidence to link Defence Minister Gene Louw or his predecessors to any of the illegal military intelligence operations.

## Major, Bush add pressure on Bosnia and GATT

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major are seeking to give new impetus to solving two of the world's intractable problems — the war in Bosnia and the GATT world trade talks.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Major were to meet Saturday at the Camp David presidential retreat to work on the finer points of a widely expected United Nations Security Council resolution authorising tougher Western military action against Serbia — most probably by enforcing an air exclusion zone over Bosnia.

The Camp David session follows talks at the White House Friday under the aegis of regular European Community-U.S. leaders' meetings where Mr. Bush and Mr. Major agreed that any new intervention must not harm the flow of aid into Bosnia.

"I think there is agreement on the need for a political settlement that does not disturb the humanitarian assistance that is so necessary for many hundreds of thousands of people in Yugoslavia," said Mr. Major, standing outside the White House alongside Mr. Bush and EC Commission President Jacques Delors.

British officials have been concerned to try to temper the tone of urgency in American calls for rapid action to stop the fighting in Bosnia. They say any action must not cut off the crucial aid pipeline to Sarajevo and elsewhere.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Tajik rebels down Uzbek helicopter

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (R) — Islamic rebels fighting pro-government forces in Tajikistan have shot down an Uzbek helicopter gunship east of the capital Dushanbe, killing two pilots, a top Russian army officer said Saturday. The officer said the helicopter, taking part in a military operation against the rebels, was downed Friday night near Pistomazar Village, about kilometre east of the capital. Senior Tajik officials say neighbouring Uzbekistan, in a show of support for its ex-Communist government, has been providing helicopters to patrol the skies over Dushanbe for the past week, as well as fighter planes to protect Tajik airspace over the troubled Afghan border. Uzbekistan has not confirmed or denied taking part in such operations.

### White House denies START deal clinched

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House expressed hope but no certainty of an arms treaty that Russian President Boris Yeltsin said had been reached to slash long range nuclear weapons. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said, "I hope he's right but we have to see." Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the two sides were getting closer but still faced "unresolved matters that are very important." President George Bush and Mr. Yeltsin signed a framework agreement last June to reduce each side's strategic nuclear arsenals to a maximum of 3,500 warheads, but as recently as last Sunday U.S. officials cited obstacles to a final agreement. From a U.S. standpoint, the proposed accord is of historic importance because it requires Russia to do away with its most fearsome nuclear weapons — those that can lob warheads at multiple targets and a class of missiles known as SS 18s that are more powerful than any missile in the American arsenal. In Peking Friday, the Russian president announced that the accord, known as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II (START II), was ready for signing by the two countries' leaders. He said a summit meeting had been set for early January in Alaska.

### Bonn upper house approves Maastricht

BONN (AP) — Germany, the bulwark of European unity, Friday became the 10th nation to ratify the Maastricht treaty on political and economic union. That leaves only Denmark, whose voters have already refused once to ratify Maastricht, and Britain, where opposition is high, to rule on the beleaguered blueprint for European unity. All 12 European Community nations, who signed the treaty in the Dutch town of Maastricht last year, have to ratify the accord before it can take effect. After just two hours of debate in parliament's upper house of states, the Bundesrat unanimously approved the treaty. Approval had been expected following the overwhelming 'yes' vote in the law-making lower house, the Bundestag, on Dec. 2.

### Taiwanese elect 1st popular legislature

TAIPEI (AP) — In its latest step toward democracy, Taiwan held its first full legislative election ever Saturday following a campaign marred by vote buying and vandalism. At least 70 per cent of Taiwan's 13 million registered voters were expected to turn out to elect the 161 seat legislative Yuan for the first time since the ruling Nationalists were vanquished to this island by the Communists in 1949. The newly elected lawmakers will replace many elderly politicians who were elected in China before 1949 and were frozen in office to support the Nationalists' claim to rule the mainland. The elderly legislators held the bulk of seats in the legislative Yuan until they stepped down last year. Early Saturday morning, many politicians paid visits to Buddhist temples to pray for success in the election. President Lee Teng-hui cast his ballot shortly after the polls opened at 8:00 a.m. (2400 GMT Friday). In a nationally televised address Friday, he urged Taiwanese to go to the polls to help their nation's transition to democracy.

### N. Korea calls off premiers' talks

SEOUL (R) — North Korea Saturday called off a scheduled prime ministerial meeting next week with South Korea, demanding that South cancel a planned joint military exercise with the United States. The official North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said the Northern delegation to the talks was lodging a strong protest against the South's decision to stage "Team Spirit" war games with U.S. forces early next year. "We clearly manifest our position that...it is unbefitting for us to sit at one table with those infringing on the interests of the nation in collusion with outside forces," KCNA quoted the delegation as saying. At a previous meeting in September, the two Korean prime ministers agreed to hold a ninth round of talks next week in Seoul. But the meeting has been in doubt since South Korea's confirmation it would go ahead with the war games.

### Bush aide suspected in passport inquiry

WASHINGTON (R) — A top White House official is among several people under investigation for possibly breaking the law by searching Bill Clinton's passport files before the U.S. election, the Washington Post said Saturday. Janet Mullins, assistant for political affairs to President George Bush, is the subject of an inquiry ordered last Monday by a three-judge panel headed by former U.S. Attorney Joseph DiGenova, according to unnamed sources cited by the newspaper. The report said the judges had also broadly authorised the investigation of other unnamed people. The inquiry will focus on whether White House officials tied to State Department investigators and whether Bush aides illegally distributed information from Clinton's files during the campaign for the election, won by Mr. Clinton.

### 2 U.S. officers beat black colleague

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Two white police officers were fired for using excessive force to subdue a black motorist who turned out to be an undercover officer working on a prostitution sting. The officer was stopped Monday night by five of his precinct colleagues for driving an unmarked, police issue truck with an expired license tag. Officers David Geary and Jeffrey Diwett were dismissed during a hearing by Police Chief Robert Kirchner. Police Department hearings for other three officers, who remain on leave without pay, probably will be next week. The chief said after the hearing that the officers' testimony showed the beating was not racially motivated. The FBI has been trying to determine if the black officer's civil rights were violated. The beaten officer, Reggie Miller, said he was partially satisfied with the outcome.

### Georgia calls for Russian withdrawal

MOSCOW (R) — Georgia has called on Russia to withdraw its troops from the western region of Abkhazia immediately and accused Moscow of backing separatists there. ITAR-TASS News Agency said Friday. "The Georgian parliament demands that the Russian troops leave immediately the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict," it quoted a statement as saying. The statement, adopted last Thursday, follows bitter recriminations between the two former Soviet republics over the shooting down of a Russian relief helicopter over Abkhazia earlier this week. The Russian Defence Ministry accused Georgian forces of downing the helicopter with a surface-to-air missile, killing more than 30 women and children being evacuated from the region. Georgia denied the charge, saying the area was under the control of rebel Abkhazian forces backed by volunteer fighters from southern Russia.

### Seoul to normalise ties with Hanoi

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea will normalise diplomatic relations next week with Vietnam to end their cold war animosity that developed during the Vietnam War. Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday. Ministry spokesman Yoo Myung Hwan said normalisation would be announced during Foreign Minister Lee Sang-Ok's three day visit Dec. 21-23 to Vietnam. The new ties will cap a yearlong South Korean bid to expand economic relations with Vietnam.

## Khmer Rouge threatens to kill 9 U.N. hostages

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas threatened Saturday to execute nine U.N. hostages they are holding in Cambodia, a U.N. spokesman said.

The guerrillas released two Russian aircrew and a Uruguayan officer held overnight with the nine in the province of Kratie to deliver the threat to U.N. headquarters in Phnom Penh, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

Mr. Falt, of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said the guerrillas have threatened to kill the nine men

"unless the (Khmer Rouge) liaison officer in Phnom Penh issues an order for their release."

He said no demands had been made and it was unclear at this stage if a time limit had been set.

Mr. Falt said the area around the village of at Stong Thom where the nine were held was known to be heavily mined and that Khmer Rouge strength in the area was estimated to be 350 guerrilla fighters.

Seven Uruguayan peacekeepers, a Russian pilot and a Cambodian interpreter were still being held, Mr. Falt said.

## Kim Young-Sam wins S. Korean presidency

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's first civilian leader-to-be said Saturday he would work for broad domestic reforms but maintain traditional alliances with Japan and the United States and push for new foreign friends.

President-elect Kim Young-Sam, a former dissident turned ruling party candidate, said he would also move quickly to cement South Korea's relationship with newly formed allies China, Russia and Eastern European nations.

Mr. Kim, 65, was elected with 42 per cent of the vote, ending 32

years of rule by military-dominated regimes and former generals.

President Roh Tae-Woo, a former general elected in 1987, was barred by law from succeeding himself. Mr. Kim assumes office in February.

The peaceful election was a victory for the still fragile electoral process, which since the founding of the nation in 1948, has not seen a transfer of power free of violence. After presidential elections in 1987, dozens of protesters were injured in a week of demonstrations over charges of vote rigging.

## Seismologist assesses earthquake zones

By Farida Ghani Burtis

NEW YORK — The Oct. 12 earthquake in Egypt that killed more than 500 people and left thousands homeless is a tragic reminder of how suddenly natural disasters strike, says Dr. Robert Hamilton, a seismologist at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. Dr. Hamilton headed the secretariat of the 1990s United Nations Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction until April 1992. Although scientists are still not able to predict earthquakes, he noted, the international community can mitigate the effects of natural disasters through technical assistance and technology transfer to countries at risk.

"The biggest earthquake in Egypt historically was in 1847, with a magnitude of 6.8 points on the Richter Scale," Mr. Hamilton explained in an exclusive interview. "That earthquake was just a little bit south of where this last earthquake occurred." He added that Egypt is in a moderate earthquake hazard zone, but that Algeria and Morocco face greater risks. "There are some active faults in northern Egypt as evidenced by earthquakes," Dr. Hamilton said. "But the area in northern Egypt where the last earthquake occurred is not on a major boundary of the plates that make up the outer crust of the earth." Places most at risk of earthquakes are located on the "boundary that runs up to the Red Sea to the Dead Sea Rift."

"The area hit by the recent Cairo earthquake is really within a plate, but it is not on a plate boundary," Dr. Hamilton noted. "So earthquakes do not take place there as frequently; nevertheless, they occur from time to time." Earthquake activity is not randomly distributed. It centres on fault zones. The contemporary understanding of the causes of earthquakes and volcanoes is based on the theory of plate tectonics, advanced some 25 years ago. Geological experts say that the outer crust of the earth is divided into several major land masses, called plates.

"These plates are like ice blocks floating on a river," Dr. Hamilton explained. Heat from the earth's core, seeking to escape sets these plates in motion. Where the plates collide or scrape past each other, they leave fractures called faults. The strain

that builds up along these faults can be released in the form of minor earthquakes over a period of time, or in one disastrous jolt.

"The whole subcontinental bloc that includes Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iraq is drifting towards the north and colliding with Turkey and Iran," Dr. Hamilton said. "This is what causes earthquakes in Turkey and Iran, and also along the Dead Sea Rift." In North Africa, Algeria and Morocco are located in a high earthquake hazard zone because "there is a line of (seismic) activity that runs pretty much through the Mediterranean, placing countries like Greece and Italy also at risk," Dr. Hamilton said. "In addition to the Arabian plate drifting northwards, Africa and Europe are moving closer together, so there is a collision there too which causes earthquakes." He estimates that Europe and Africa are moving closer at the rate of about an inch a year.

Is there any likelihood that Europe and Africa might merge, at some distant point in time? "In the past they have been together, and they may come back, or they may collide," Dr. Hamilton noted. "A hundred million years ago the Atlantic Ocean did not exist. Africa was up against South America, and Europe was against the United States."

Scientific evidence to prove the movement of tectonic plates and the drift of continents is now fairly easy to come by. "This is one of the main discoveries of this century in geology, and the evidence, for instance, comes from rocks that match the opposite sides of the Atlantic," Dr. Hamilton explained. "When these rocks were being formed they were right next to each other...Also, it is possible to document the way the continents have moved because of the imprint of magnetic fields on the rocks. We know that the earth's magnetic field switches back and forth from time to time, like a compass, and as it does, the rocks record the magnetic field as a kind of tape recording through time." As a result, it is possible "basically to unravel the whole history of the earth for about 200 million years."

Elaborating upon the movement of land masses, Dr. Hamilton said that the Himalayas were born because the subcontinent of South Asia, including India and

Pakistan, "is drifting upwards and colliding with China." In the United States, Dr. Hamilton cited the San Andreas Fault on the west coast: the land on the west side of the San Andreas Fault, close to Los Angeles, is "drifting to the north at the rate of about 2 inches a year, relative to the land on the east side. There are many secondary faults around the San Andreas Fault where earthquake activity takes place as well." Down south, the South American plate in the western part of the continent is in the process of building new mountains in the Andes.

Maybe the most deadly manifestation of nature's power, earthquakes, have left deep scars. For example, in Peru in May 1970, a quake triggered a large snow avalanche from Huascaran mountain claiming over 60,000 lives and covering small villages and cities with mud in the Andean valley. The Guatemalan earthquake of February 1976, with a surface-wave magnitude of 7.7, claimed 22,700 lives, injured more than 76,000 people, and left more than one million homeless. The estimated losses were pegged at more than \$1 billion. During July 1976, an earthquake with a surface magnitude of 7.9 occurred east of Peking, killing at least 300,000 people. It is considered one of the greatest disasters of the century. In October 1980, an earthquake with a surface magnitude of 7.5 occurred in northern Algeria. It caused extensive damage, claiming more than 5,000 lives, injuring more than 9,000 people and leaving over 200,000 homeless. Also in Algeria, an earthquake destroyed the city of Agadir in 1960; it was recorded at 5.5 on the Richter Scale.

"After an earthquake, scientists have been able to identify what appeared to be anomalous seismic activity, or in some cases, the ground tilted or the earth was deformed before the earthquake," Dr. Hamilton said. "There is a lot of work going on looking at patterns of earthquake activity and possible land deformation," but scientific research has failed so far to yield "a proven and reliable means for the prediction of earthquakes."

Seismograph stations located throughout the world report data to the U.S. Geological Survey. "We have a national earthquake information centre in Colorado," Dr. Hamilton said, "and we re-

ceive readings from all over the world; we locate the earthquakes and release the information to the news media."

Drawing upon his expertise as former head of the U.N. secretariat for Natural Disaster Reduction, Dr. Hamilton pointed to several techniques that can mitigate the impact of quakes. "In the last Cairo earthquake, some buildings fell and others did not," he said. Improving building construction can greatly reduce the losses, and "the increased cost is really not that much," he added. A building can be reinforced by "putting metal straps and nailing them between the roof and the walls." Builders call these hurricane clips. Steel reinforcing rods in walls can also make a difference, and so does making the roof lighter.

The impact of earthquakes could be reduced by better use of land, Dr. Hamilton noted: "Houses should not be built in areas where they can be subjected to fault movement, floods or landslides. It is very important not to build facilities like hospitals, schools, fire stations, nuclear reactors or dams in areas where there are active faults. Also, it is important not to locate buildings on low land near the ocean."

"Another way to reduce loss of life from natural disasters such as earthquakes is to improve warning systems," declared Dr. Hamilton. "In the U.S. in the last few decades, by improving the warning system for hurricanes — mainly through satellites — the loss of life has been greatly reduced. We used to have natural disasters such as hurricane losses where thousands of people would be killed, where they would be caught in vulnerable areas. But now with the good warning system it does not happen."

Dr. Hamilton said the goals of the U.N.'s International Decade for the Reduction of Natural Disasters were to "bring modern technology to developing countries" so as to improve each country's capacity to withstand natural disasters. He said the U.N. is engaged in scientific and engineering efforts to close critical gaps in knowledge, and is working with governments in conducting education and training. By the year 2000, it is hoped that worldwide, national and local warning systems will be in place — World News Link.